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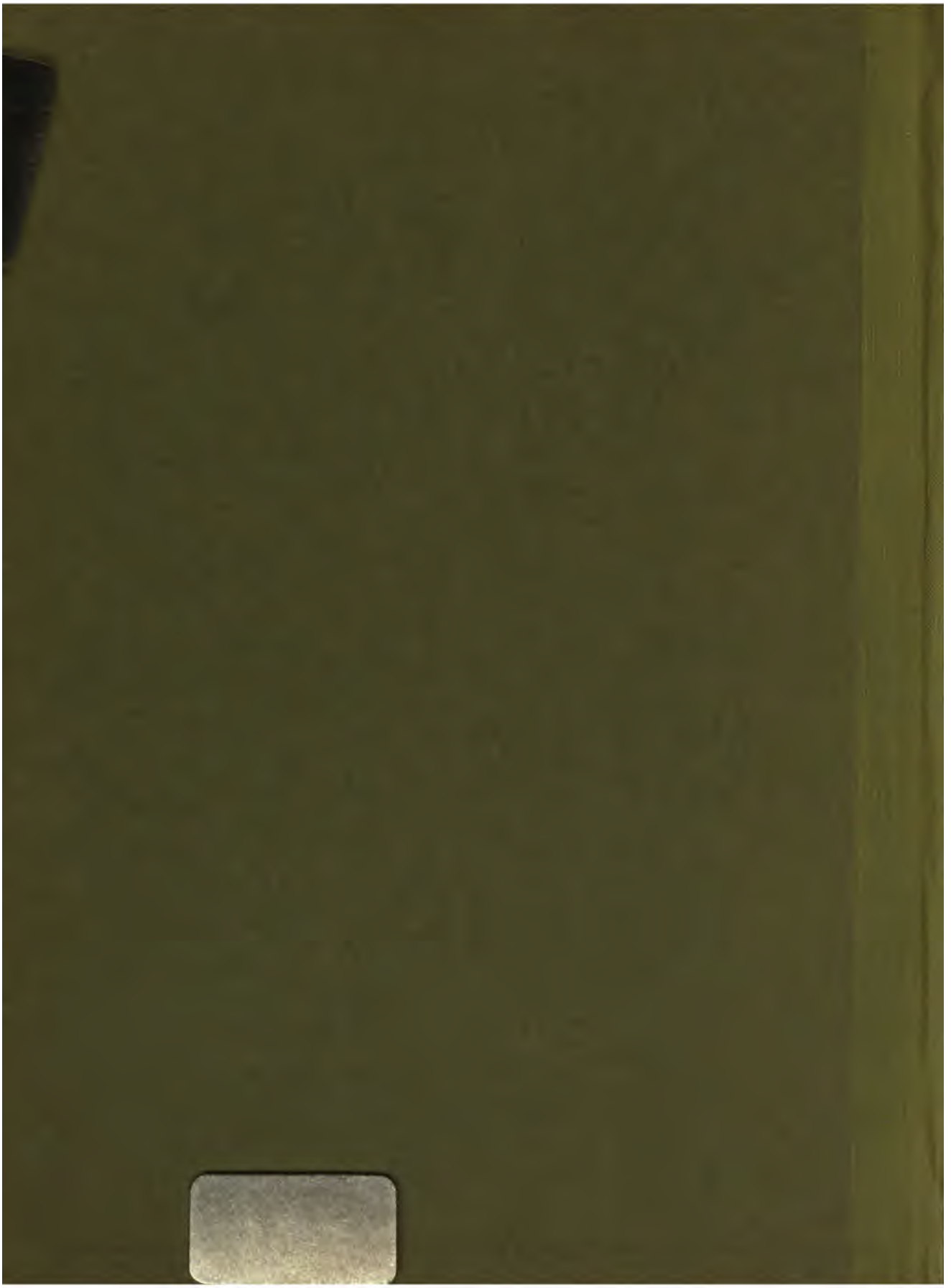

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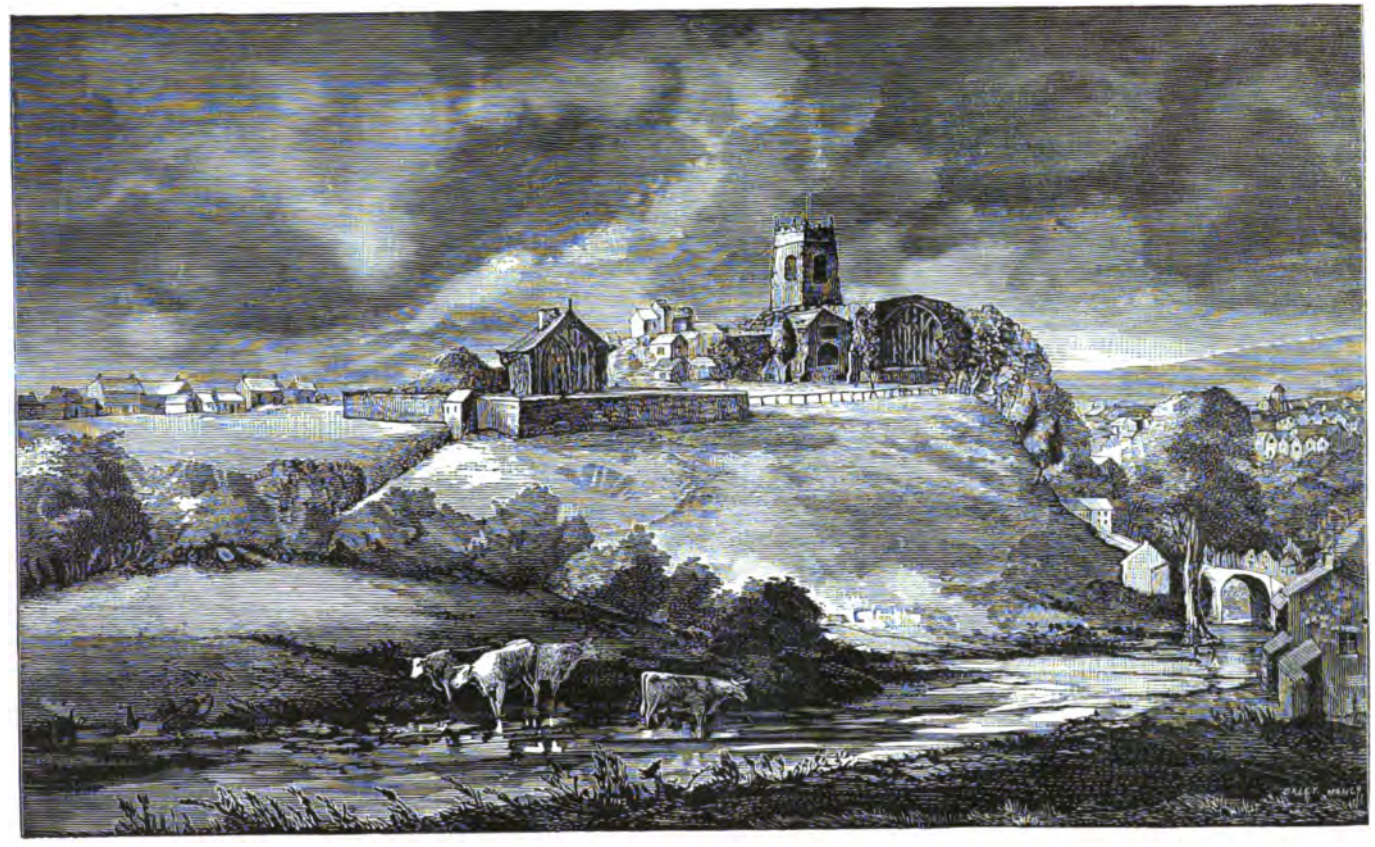

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HISTORY OF BOLTON:

WITH MEMORIALS OF

THE OLD PARISH CHURCH.

BY

JAMES CHRISTOPHER SCHOLES,

AUTHOR OF "BOLTON BIBLIOGRAPHY AND JOTTINGS OF BOOK LORE," "BOLTON PARISH CHURCH ORGANS," "NOTES ON TURTON TOWER," &C., &C.

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PREFACE.

When requested to undertake the editing and completion of this Work, I could make one reply only. It was in the affirmative.

With my lamented friend J. C. SCHOLES the production of a History of Bolton, worthy the name, had become a passion. Scorning any idea of pecuniary benefit in the undertaking—labouring in love—he spared neither toil nor money in preparation and compilation. When Death claimed him, at a moment when the Summer of his life was bearing the rich promise of the Spring—in days when, in addition to the pressing calls of an important private business, and when he was one of the most active, as he was certainly one of the highest esteemed members of the Bolton School Board and the Board of Guardians—JAMES CHRISTOPHER SCHOLES had done much towards the discharge of his self-imposed task. The manuscripts and general data handed to me were in plenty; the most valuable part was largely ready for the Press. So much material was placed at my disposal, the facilities for obtaining information and supplying what was left undone were so many, that the difficulty has been, not what to present to the reader, but what to discard.

To Mrs. J. C. SCHOLES, the Rev. CANON ATKINSON, and Mr. J. K. WAITE, Public Librarian of Bolton, my hearty thanks are due for willing advice and assistance. The Canon has been particularly kind in going carefully through the MS. relating to the Parish Church, the Vicars, and the Lectureship Estate, and in confirming sundry items by personal references within the sacred edifice. My disappointment is that the condition of his health will not permit him writing the Introductory Chapter he was asked to supply. Any contribution from his pen would have added greatly to the value of the Work.

The following Letter explains itself :—"Dear Pimblett,—Much as I should like to have written an Introduction to the History of Bolton, I fear my present state of health will not justify me in attempting it. My acquaintance with our friend

J. C. SCHOLES was comparatively brief. He attended the Parish Church, and I knew his antiquarian tastes and researches, and read his publications. But what drew us together was sickness—first, that of his only child, who was at death's door many weeks, during which I was constantly at the house, and then his last illness, during which I daily visited him. It was then I learned how rapt up he was in his History of Bolton. He was continually lamenting that he had not completed it, and longed that his life might be spared to enable him to do so. It was not to be, for God took him. On his death-bed he made me promise to see that his History was published. Accordingly, as you know, I have felt a deep interest in the editing, finishing, and issue of the Volume, and have rendered you what help I could in revising the MS. having reference to the Old Parish Church for the Press. I think it should be stated that Mr. Scholes left a large amount of material collected together at great cost of time, of which you have availed yourself for some of the Chapters; whilst the remaining Chapters are entirely your own. I desire to bear my testimony to the admirable and efficient way in which you have carried on, completed, and edited the History.—I remain, yours very faithfully, J. A. ATKINSON, Vicar of Bolton.—March 22nd, 1892."

Mr. J. K. WAITE's concern in the Work has been practical and sustained, the Index at the end of the Book being not the least of his efforts.

W. PIMBLETT.

BOLTON, APRIL, 1892.

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HISTORY OF BOLTON.

CHAPTER I.

GEOLOGY OF BOLTON AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Bolton and its Environments—Rivers—Old Formations—"An Uncultivated Waste"—Wild Denizens—Great Elevations —Valleys and Plains—The Earth's Strata.

THE geological position of Bolton is a subject sufficiently interesting to merit a brief allusion. The town and its environments are situated about the centre of the Western part of South-East Lancashire, and thirty miles from the West coast of England. They are bounded on the North by the Darwen district, on the East by Bury, on the South by Salford and Manchester, and on the West by the Parish of Deane and the town of Wigan.

The Parish of Bolton comprises the Chapelries of Blackrod, Bradshaw, Harwood, Little Lever, and Turton, and the Townships of Anglezarke, Breightmet, Tonge-with-Haulgh, Edgworth, Entwisle, Longworth, Quarlton, Rivington, Lostock, Darcy Lever, and Sharples (including Great and Little Bolton).

The River Douglas rises on the West side of the ancient parish; and three rivulets, known by the names of Tonge, Croal, and Bradshaw have their sources from the overlooking hills. The Croal flows through the town, whilst the Tonge and the Bradshaw Brook are adjacent to it, making a confluence with the River Irwell at Prestolee, near Little Lever. The Croal divides, practically, Great and Little Bolton, and runs in a valley from West to East; the Bradshaw Brook flows into the

Tonge, and marks the division between Tonge and Breightmet. The Tonge separates Bolton from Tonge.

Before the time of pre-historic man we may imagine our district to have been a vast waste of water. That a lake of this extent has covered the whole valley from one bank to another, on a level with the elevated Old Church-yard of Bolton, is extremely probable. The exact period when this now busy centre of industry was filled by the expanse of water is certainly not easy to determine; "but," says a contributor to a local historical work, "there is every reason to suppose from the analogy of other phenomena of the same kind, and the operations which the laws of physics impose on matter, that that period could not have been posterior to the flood, if it was not terminated by that catastrophe. In arguing from such remote phenomena, it is consonant with every geological inference to conclude that before this diluvial change, this valley formed one of the fresh water lakes or basins in which the ligneous deposition took place which, subsequently, from pressure and chemical change, became carbonised and formed some of the coal beds of the present day in this part of the country. When, however, the ocean of waters began to subside from off this part of the earth, the retreating currents would of course deck any hollow and depressions by sweeping the higher hills and grounds of their soil and loose stones. The current would also increase in force with the time of the decrease of the general flood, and proportionably to the declivities of the surface, so that, ere the waters subsiding by the valley of the Irwell had gained their greatest impetuosity the gravel and sand beds had had time to be deposited. When the superficial current begun to affect the surface of the country it would have gained much force, and then may have disrupted the narrow gorge at Farnworth, which the draining waters and the constant effects of the stream since that time would deepen more and render it what we see it in our day."

For ages after this a denuded and otherwise extremely wild state of the surface must have obtained. It is recorded, and not surprisingly, that at so late a period as the fourteenth century the country of and around about our ancient Parish of Bolton was "a waste, uncultivated, without roads (except those made by the Romans), and thinly inhabited, containing morasses,

destructive to mortals; woods, chases, ravines, gorges, impervious woods of great length and thickly interwoven with huge trees, brushwood, rivers, and overflowed valleys; there have been debacles, or sudden eruptions in the land about Bolton—the deep gorges and other openings of ravines which present themselves fully prove the fact." To an observant naturalist this will clearly appear to be the case, especially when he is shown the chain of small, picturesque vales which almost surround the town.

The late Mr. Rooke Pennington, of Bolton, accounting for the "Pebbles in a Bolton Brickfield,"* attributes their allocation to the glaciers which, in ages past, floated from a northerly direction to the spot now known as Lancashire. "If these islands," says Mr. Pennington, "and the adjacent seas were raised 100 fathoms (600 feet), Ireland, Great Britain, and the Continent would be united, dry land would extend from Cape Clear to Cape La Hogue, and from Edinboro' to Jutland. We stand, indeed, upon the uplands of a great plateau, partly covered with water, and bounded by the 100 fathom line a few miles to the west of Ireland, beyond which the Atlantic rapidly and almost precipitously deepens. The cold gradually became intense until all the land was covered with a thick sheet of ice. Most of the existing valleys were then ploughed out by glaciers, radiating from the top of the Snowdon range, the Cumberland mountains, and the Grampians. The scratching of the glacial ice and the rocks it held in its grasp against the hill-sides and valley bottoms are as plainly to be seen now-a-days in some districts as if they had been made yesterday. When the great ice-sheet covered the country, the ice-stream flowed from Cumberland to Lancashire, and this it was that brought the pebbles of foreign rock to Bolton. A continuous stream of the shap granite can be traced from that elevation to Lancashire; and the boulder clay and all the bits of granite, jelstone, greenstone, silurian, limestone, sandstone, and grit it contains are nothing more nor less than a *moraine profonde* deposited by this gigantic glacier."

There is undoubtedly a considerable proportion of foreign rocks mixed with native rocks in the gravel in Bolton, whilst in the Haulgh there are not only gravel and sand strati-

* In a Lecture delivered at the Bolton Church Institute, Feb. 18th, 1875, and published.

fied in beds, but thin streaks of coal, showing that the sea had attacked the coal-bearing rocks of the neighbourhood, and mixed up fragments of the coal washed out with its shingle.

Mr. Pennington, whilst showing that the main details of the physical geography of Bolton were engraved during the glacial period, pointed out that there were forest beds,—which, during the lapse of an incalculable length of time, became formed into coal—of much earlier date than the glaciers, it being proved that beds of clay rested upon them. Thus we may understand that ages anterior to the glacial period the district of Bolton was dry land, "which," says Mr. Pennington again, "proves that before the great ice-covering had overspread the country, Britain was inhabited by gigantic beasts of types now peculiar to hot countries, but were adapted for a cold climate. Over the very ground on which we now stand packs of hyænas have hunted to death the sickly reindeer; the grizzly bear has lurked amid rocks to surprise the bison; the elephant and the rhinoceros have contended for the possession of the scanty herbage clothing the hill-sides, or have wallowed in the valley marshes. Remains of all these creatures have been found within thirty miles of Bolton."

The hills, particularly on the north-western side of Bolton, are naturally separated by broad valleys, whose streams are now utilised for manufacturing purposes. The heights of some of the principal elevations are:—Rivington Pike, 1192 feet; Counting Hill, 1415 feet; Two Lads, 1276 feet; Whinberry Hill, 1126·8 feet; Birtle Edge, 943·9 feet.*

The geological formation of our town and neighbourhood has been lucidly described by Mr. Edward Hull in his *Geological Survey of Great Britain*, and from this work it may be understood that the hill upon which Blackrod stands (reaching a height of 538·9 feet) is formed of sandstone, which overlies the "Cannel mine;" whilst, also, the same bed forms high ground along Whitegate Brow and Middle Hulton. Near the top of the zone called the middle coal-measures, a conspicuous range of sandstone occurs between the "Worsley four-feet" and the "Bin" coal-seams. "This," says Mr. Hull, "forms the ridge upon which Atherton Hall and Tyldesley are built." It rises

* *Geology of the Country Around Bolton-le-Moors*, by Edward Hull, B.A., F.G.S., 1862, p. 1.

into cliffs at Nob End and Ash Clough; a still higher band of rocks forms the ridge of Worsley Hall. In the district lying between Aspull and Hulton Park, and extending southward to Leigh, the tract occupied by the coal-measures is deeply overspread by boulder clay and sand. It is found that in the quarries north of Little Bolton, and at Ousel Nest Quarry in Turton, the strata overlying the rough rock or millstone grit consist of black shales, and at Bradshaw Mill Quarries flagstone occupies a similar geological position.

The strata at Doffcocker Colliery were, on examination some years ago, found to be as follow :—A thickness of many yards of black shales; 6 inches coal; fire-clay and shale, 7 feet; coal, 18 inches; and hard Gannister rock, with *stigmaria*, 36 feet. The vertical distance from the Arley mine to the Gannister coal is about 620 yards, and to the rough rock 765 yards; the measurements being taken along a line drawn north and south through Halliwell, near Bolton. East of Blackrod the Arley mine coal diminishes considerably in thickness, so that at its outcrop on Red Moss it is only two feet thick. It also crops out at Chew Moor, Chip Hill Brow, south of Deane, and Daubhill, and extends eastward. North of Bolton there is no outcrop, as the beds are broken off by a "fault" against the lower coal-measures. Further east, at Ainsworth, the coal is supposed to be the same species as the Arley mine, although it is worked under the name of "Cannel mine." The strata at Ainsworth are 1 foot coal, 2 feet clay or "drit," 4 inches cannel, and 17 inches coal.

In the neighbourhood of Bolton the upper surface of the drift assumes the form of a plain, which stretches to the base of the hills, and through which the rivers wander in deeply cut channels. In the district of Westhoughton the boulder clay attains a great depth; whilst Winter Hill is perhaps the highest position where the "erratic" pebbles have been discovered—this is at an elevation of 1380 feet.

Much of the information given here is gleaned from Mr. Hull's valuable paper, which provides a detailed account of the earth's formation in and around Bolton. Briefly, what is now reproduced will perhaps be sufficient ground to work upon in the succeeding chapters, and we must, therefore, pass over the carboniferous and glacial periods of history without further comment.

CHAPTER II.

EARLY BRITISH PERIOD.

The Ancient Britons—Form of Government—Druids—Human Sacrifices—The Groves—"Arts and Mysteries" of Religion —Bards and their Office—The Alarms of War—Manners and Customs—Druidical Circles.

ABOUT the still dark ages of the ancient Britons* or Celts† much has been written, and much more surmised. All this is infinitesimal compared with what still remains unknown. Authors of old times, from whom we might have hoped to learn something of the early inhabitants of this sea-girt isle, are comparatively few; some of their writings are not so lucid as the antiquarian and historian would desire. Later writers have taken up the study of the early races—in some instances founding their theories on the works of Diodorus Siculus, Ptolemy, Cæsar, Dion Cassius, Richard of Cirencester, Antoninus, and others of equal literary note. In numerous cases modern historians have founded their observations on personal explorations and subsequent discoveries. It is from the works of the latter that the following items are principally taken, though other facilities of a local bearing have, at the same time, been advantageously accepted.

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* The word "Brith" among the Britains implied that which Britains were indeed, to wit, painted, dyed, and coloured. To the word "Brit," therefore, they added "Tania," which in Greek betokens "a region."—*Camden.*

† Bochart in his *Phaleg* derives the Celtæ from a Hebrew word which signifies "Saffron," and supposes that name to be given them from that colour of their hair for which they were originally noted.

The ancient Britons were governed by petty kings, and their religion was promoted by priests who were named "Druids."* Druidism flourished in Britain from the time it was first colonised down to one of the greatest epochs in the history of the country—the Roman Invasion—in the first century, when it was subjugated by that irresistible force. The Druids were of the most distinguished orders among the Gauls and Britons, being chosen from the best families.

They wore their garments extremely long. When employed in religious ceremonies they appeared in a loose white robe, much resembling a surplice of the present day. Their hair was cut very short; their beards were allowed to grow to a remarkable length. The hands and arms were adorned with bracelets, and gold chains were hung about their necks.

These ancient priests performed their religious rites generally with wand in hand, in consecrated groves, which were encircled with stones of various dimensions—roughly hewn and irregular. Some of these groves were in the form of a circle, and others were oblong shape; the area in the centre was encompassed with several rows of large oaks, very close together. Within this large circle were several smaller ones, surrounded with huge stones, and near the middle of these lesser circles were stones upon which the appointed victims were immolated. These stone altars were again shielded by another row of stones.

Dr. Lingard says:—"The Druids were accustomed to dwell at a distance from the profane, in huts or caverns, amid the silence and gloom of the forest. There, at the hours of noon and midnight, when the Deity was supposed to honour the sacred spot with his presence, the trembling votary was admitted within a circle of lofty oaks, to prefer his prayer, and listen to the responses of the minister. In peace they offered the fruits of the earth; in war they devoted to the god of battles the spoils of the enemy. The cattle were slaughtered in his honour, and a pile formed of the rest of the booty was consecrated as a monu-

* Picard, Celtopaed, lib. ii., p. 58, believes the Druids to have been thus called from *Druis* or *Dyrius*, their leader, the fourth or fifth king of the Gauls, and the father of Saron or Naumes. Some derive the word from the Hebrew *derussim* or *drussim*. Borel forms the word from the Saxon *dry*, "magician;" or rather from the British *dru*, or derw, "oak," and, perhaps, has hit on the most probable supposition.

ment of his powerful assistance. But in the hour of danger or distress human sacrifices were deemed the most efficacious. The Druids professed to be acquainted with the nature, the power, and the providence of the divinity; with the figure, size, and formation of the earth; with the stars, their position and motions, and their supposed influence over human affairs."

The great objects of the Order were undoubtedly to reform morals, to secure peace, and to encourage goodness. Their first three principles of wisdom were obedience to the laws of God, concern for the good of man, and fortitude under the accidents of life. They likewise taught the immortality of the soul; but to this great truth they added the absurd fiction of metempsychosis—or the transmigration of the soul.

The Priests of the Order exercised absolute dominion over the untutored minds of the people. Their opinion, in all deliberations of any moment, was invariably sought and as faithfully obeyed. By their despotic authority peace was preserved among the Britons, in their presence passion and revenge were silenced, and at their mandate contending armies consented to sheath their swords. Civil controversies were submitted for the decision of the Priests, and the punishment of crime was reserved to their discretion. Their religion supplied them with the power of enforcing submission, and disobedience was hastily followed by excommunication; from that instant the culprit was banished from their sacrifices, cut off from the protection of the laws, and stigmatised as a disgrace to his family and his country.*

To the veneration which the Druids, or priests, derived from their sacerdotal character, must be combined the respect which the reputation of knowledge never fails, even in the present day, to extort from the ignorant and uncultured mind. The Pagan priests never wrote anything, and consequently procured still greater respect and even fear for their mysteries from their followers. The education of their youth consisted principally in an acquaintance with their genealogy and the daring and fearless acts of their ancestors, and in subservience to the Druids. Instruction, such as it was, was given mostly in long addresses, and sometimes in poetry.

The Druids and Bards, who were unmistakably the

*Dr. Lingard.

masters of the religion and policy, kept all the mysteries of their superstition in their memories, and all the chronicles of history in their old songs. The Britons seldom troubled themselves with agriculture, simply because their civilization had not reached that height of ingenuity to provide for themselves other than carnivorous food. Their principal characteristics were their warlike appearance and disposition. We are informed that they were clad with skins, and painted themselves blue with woad, so that they should look the more dreadful and fierce to their enemies in battle. They allowed the hair of their heads and upper lips to grow very long. Solinus, in his "Historical Collections," supplements this description by saying that the Britons made several artificial incisions in the skin of their infants, by which the shapes of divers creatures were so incorporated that they grew up with them and increased with their stature; these figures were considered to be so ornamental that at their public feasts and sacrifices the bearers of them would expose their bodies to the view of the company.

Of the Bard, who was held in esteem and regard next to the Druid himself, very little need be said. This personage was a musician as well as a poet. He accompanied his chieftain almost wherever he went—to his peaceful hall and to the battle-field. To the sound of his melodious harp forces marched against the enemy, "and," as one writer says, "in the heat of the contest, animated themselves with the hope that their actions would be renowned in song, and transmitted to the admiration of their posterity."

Referring to the manners of the early Britons, *Diodorus Siculus*, who flourished about 44 B.C., says:—"They are the original people of Britain, and live to this time after their own ancient manner and custom; for in fights they use chariots, as it is said the old Grecian heroes did in the Trojan war. These chariots were drawn by two horses, which carry a charioteer and a soldier; and when they meet horsemen in battle they fall upon them with their darts, then quitting their chariots they to it with their swords."

Concisely reviewing the different modes of burial by the Britons, it is noticeable that in many instances the splendour with which the dead of an ancient people were committed to the grave is clearly suggestive of the self-denying affection which

the people bore towards one another. Two modes of burial were commonly in use during the times we are considering—burial by cremation, and by inhumation. A much rarer mode was where the burial places have been surrounded by circles of separate stones or of earth, and where no mound or cairn has ever occupied the space within the circles which are usually designated "Druidical circles." Instances of all these different practices have been found in the town and neighbourhood of which this history specially treats, as will be described in due course.

The unburnt body was found under various circumstances, perhaps most frequently in chambers made of stone set on edge, with one or more covers upon them, and without any mound over the place of burial. At the same time, burials in most respects similar to these, are also found under circular mounds of earth, or cairns of stones—sometimes one, and at other times several bodies, being placed in a barrow, and, usually in a district where stone abounds, in cists made by slabs of stone, whilst it not uncommonly occurs that the body is unprotected from the earth either by cist or stone.

The articles deposited with the bodies or ashes of the departed at these prehistoric burials were numerous and various; for instance, with the bodies of males have been deposited daggers of bronze, hatchets of metal, knives, scrapers, and arrow points of flint; with bodies of females their ornaments were generally buried, such as beads of jet, amber, and glass, and knives of flint, awls of bronze, and various bone implements. The articles most valued by the departed when alive were invariably buried with the human remains. The practice of burying weapons is of very ancient origin, being in vogue in the time of Ezekiel, during the old dispensation, for we read in chapter xxxii. v. 27 of the book of that prophet:—

"And they shall not lie with the mighty that are fallen of the uncircumcised, which are gone down to hell with their weapons of war: and they have laid their swords under their heads. . . ."

CHAPTER III.

EARLY BRITISH PERIOD (CONTINUED).

Situation of Druidical Circles—Important Discovery at Turton Heights, or "Chetham's Close"—Vandalism and Reflections upon it—Early Places of Sepulture in Bolton—Stone Coffins Unearthed—Curious Burial Customs—Tumuli at Walmsley—Relics found at Smithills and in Bolton.

AT this stage of the history of the Druids and Druidism, it will be well to introduce references of local significance.

Druidical Circles are to be found throughout England and Ireland, as well as upon the Continent, being generally situated on remote hill-tops, or on some dreary moorland. The largest of these in Europe is that at Avebury, co. Wiltshire—ranking highest in antiquity as well as in magnitude. The most remarkable and interesting in its masonic and scientific character is that at Stonehenge—also in Wiltshire—situated on the east side of Salisbury Plain.*

Only one Circle is known about Bolton—or rather *was* known—its situation being on a desolate hill waste in proximity to Turton Heights, now called Chetham's Close. It lies on the

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* For exhaustive accounts of Avebury and Stonehenge Circles see Sir R. C. Hoare's *Ancient Wiltshire*.

east side of the road from Bolton to Blackburn, being about 1060 feet above the sea level, or some 25 feet lower than Turton Heights.

It would be utterly impossible to describe the original extent and appearance of these interesting stones from what remains of them at the present time with anything like accuracy and detail. What we know regarding these stones has been rescued and imparted to us by two worthy chronologers of local note—Thomas Greenhalgh, of Thornydikes, Sharples, and the late Matthew Dawes, F.G.S., of Bolton.

The deep interest taken in this subject by the first-named gentleman was shown in a clever and lucid paper which he prepared for the Archæological Society (London) in 1871. The account is in all respects trustworthy, consequently the substance of it will be largely embodied in the accompanying description in these pages.

Amongst the lofty moorland hills of Turton is a range of high ground standing more distinct from the other moors than is usual with hills of this nature. Upon this moorland seven stones of a Druidical Circle were standing in 1871,* being four less in number than was supposed to constitute the original set. About twelve months after this date, several of these stones were most pitiably mutilated by some mischievous members of a picnic party, who had resorted to the spot without the permission of the lord of the manor—the late James Kay, of Turton Tower. However, the traces of the Circle are not entirely lost—sufficient remains to point to the sacred place of burial or worship, or perhaps both, of those who 2,000 years ago trod the ground which in later times has been the scene, alternately, of strife and peace.

Mr. Greenhalgh, when writing of this malicious destruction, aptly observes:—"Unfortunately, there are still to be found amongst us persons as barbarous, in some respects, as the rude people who erected the Circle. These were rude in their ideas of building; the others barbarous in wantonly destroying that which time had made more interesting than the modern palaces of kings." This was a severe but a just rebuke to those who selfishly deny to others that which they themselves will

* A sketch of their positions was made by Mr. Greenhalgh at this date, and it accompanies his paper in the "Transactions of the Archæological Society" (London).

not, cannot, or care not to appreciate. Ignorance of the wrongs done to posterity by such gross wantonness will probably account for the mischief; if allowed to pass unnoticed it would ultimately erase many valuable links in the historical chain of our country of a people who have in a marked degree helped to make England what she is to day and for centuries has been in the eyes of the civilised world. The Parish of Bolton can ill afford to sever these historic associations with the past, and it is deplorable to note that in the 19th century there are still those who would deprive us of evidences of the existence, in our neighbourhood, of a people who were our progenitors may be, and at the same time obliterate from our records that which alone could point to the first epoch in the religious and social character of our town.

To resume the description of the Circle on "Chetham's Close." According to Mr. Greenhalgh, the diameter of the Circle was rather small compared with others in existence in the North of England—being only 51ft. 6in., consequently the stones themselves were likewise small. The tallest of these was 55in. by 18in. wide, and the shortest 8in. in height. At the distance of 45ft. south-west from the outside of the Circle stood a solitary stone, 19in. high by 10in. wide; and south-south-east, at a distance of 102ft., another stone, 35in. high by 17in. wide. The stones varied in thickness, from 9in. to 15in. The position of the stones was circular, with vacant spots; and their dimensions and shapes also varied. The table-land, as already mentioned, gradually rises from the Circle in a south-south-easterly direction. A short distance past the out-lying stone a height of 1075 feet is attained.

Another interesting paper on this and other ancient remains was read before the Historic Society in 1852 by the late Matthew Dawes, and in two or three instances only does it differ from the later account by Mr. Greenhalgh. By noticing the points at variance the reader will be in a better position to judge of the importance or otherwise of the component parts and extent of this Circle. Mr. Dawes says:—"I accompanied Sir Henry Dryden to visit these remains in 1850; at that time there remained six stones upright, varying in height from one foot to four feet five inches, in width from one foot six inches to four feet, and in thickness from eleven inches to two feet. Judging

from the relative distances of those remaining, three stones have been taken away. At 115 feet S.E. from the Circle is a single stone, and at 82 feet S.W. is another; and between these two stones is an assemblage of smaller stones only just appearing out of the boggy soil."

Although the Circle at Turton is not an isolated instance of the existence and discovery of relics of the period prior to the advent of the Romans in Britain, it is certainly somewhat singular that so few discoveries have been made that connect Bolton with the early past. Nevertheless some curious reminders of "what things were" in the ages of barbarity and semi-civilisation have from time to time been brought to the surface, each object carrying its own peculiar history. For the recovery and record of several of these ancient memorials we are indebted to Mr. Matthew Dawes and Sir Henry E. L. Dryden; likewise to the late Mr. Alfred Hadfield, of Breightmet, who wrote on the subject during the first decade of this century. Considering the nature of the discoveries in this neighbourhood, it is almost certain that many others similar to these have been made, and, through their apparent insignificance from the finder's standpoint, have either been destroyed or otherwise lost—probably for ever.

Before the beginning of the present century there must have been found in the numerous excavations in and around our interesting town, some interesting evidences connecting us with the past. Hundreds of acres of land—bog, morass, and forest, hill and dale, meadow and pasture—have been ploughed and harrowed, dug and turned; whilst thousands of buildings—churches, halls, and cottage-homes—have been raised to completion for use and habitation. And all this revolution has only produced a mere shred of proof that in ages past those British warriors and their revered Druids, of whom so much is written, were at one time settled in the town wherein we live. Still less is there remaining to satisfy us that they frequented, for worship or war, the almost uncultivated track of land which in early English times was known as Botheltune, and since as Bolton-le-Moors.

It is by no means difficult to imagine that the elevated site upon which the present magnificent Parish Church of Bolton now stands was formerly the sacred ground of the

Druids. Certainly its eminence, and close proximity to a flowing stream—upon which they erected their temple for sacrifice and prayer—would seemingly lend countenance to so feasible a theory. Citing the several instances of interesting discoveries made in the neighbourhood of Bolton during the first-half of the present century Mr. Dawes says:—"Near Haulgh, about a quarter of a mile south-east from Bolton Parish Church, on a piece of high flat land, on the east bank of the Croal, and about fifty feet above the river, was a tumulus, about thirty feet in diameter, and four feet deep, consisting of small boulders; here is gravel. It was discovered in September, 1825, in forming a branch of the new road leading from Bolton to Bury. It was probably much depressed in its formation and was covered with a few inches of mound. The cop or fence crossed it in a north and south direction. About the centre of this tumulus was a cist-vaen,* about four feet six inches long and one foot deep, formed of four upright stones and a coverer, and its length was nearly north and south. In this cist-vaen was a skeleton, with the legs doubled up, and the head to the north. Near the head, and on the west side, was found an urn, inverted, four and a half inches in the widest diameter, and three and a quarter inches high, and perforated by four small holes in the widest part. On the other side of the head was a bronze spear-head, four and three-eighths inches long, and one and three-eighths inch wide, of which the point was bent back, and a piece of the side chipped away. The urn and spear-head were taken to the Countess of Bradford, the Earl of Bradford being the owner of the land. The Watling Street from Mancunium (Manchester) to Coccium (Ribchester), running W. and S.E., passes within three miles N.E. of the tumulus. A man in the employ of the Earl of Bradford, the superintendent of the work, who made the discovery, informs me (1852) that two other tumuli were found shortly after the one just described, a few yards to the south of it, in the same fence." In another chapter† will be found a contention as to the situation of the *Coccium* to which Mr. Dawes refers, based upon discoveries made since he wrote his article.

Mr. Dawes also notices a very interesting discovery that was made when digging for the foundations of Walmsley

* A kind of stone coffin. † Chapter IV.

Church, about a hundred yards west of the turnpike road to Blackburn, and some three miles north of Bolton Parish Church. "This," he says, "was on the southerly end of a long knoll, on the east side of Eagley Brook, and about fifty feet above the water, but surrounded on all sides by much higher hills. The soil is gravel, with fine sand. It was discovered in 1838. . . . . The burial place consisted of tumuli (of boulders) like that one at Haulgh Hall. In the centre of the heap of boulders was a cist-vaen, containing a skeleton, lying north by east, south by west, and a grey urn ill baked and broken to small fragments by the workmen, from whose information it must have been four or five inches in diameter. With this urn was a white flint celt or knife, about two and a half inches long and one and a half inches broad."* The Druidical Circle on Turton Heights, or more correctly speaking "Chetham's Close," is distant from the place of the last-mentioned discovery about one-mile north by east.

Another find of two ancient relics was made about the year 1812 on the Smithills estate, in the parish of Deane. These articles were a stone hammer and a bronze paalstab, and were both secured by Mr. Dawes. The site of this discovery was situated about a mile and a half south-west from the Walmsley ancient burial ground.

The only other discovery mentioned by Mr. Dawes was made in the November of 1851, on the edge of the west bank of the River Croal, at a distance of a mile from the Bolton Parish Church, and some 100 yards east of the Turnpike road to Manchester. This bank which is composed solely of gravel, rises from 60 to 70 feet above the water which runs at its base, thus commanding a good view for many miles around. Mr. Dawes describes this burial place as consisting of a tumulus about fifteen feet diameter and four feet deep, formed of boulders of from three to eight inches diameter. A layer of earth to the depth of two feet covered the stones. In the middle of the tumulus was an urn about two feet high and one foot three inches wide, inverted and sunk about six inches into the earth below the boulders. This urn contained the burnt bones of a very young person, together with bones of one or two small animals; and in or close to the urn was a relic, which was a

*This flint was, some time ago, lent to a temporary museum at Salford, and thence stolen.

piece of what is called Kimmeridge coal money. A small clay bead was also found; but as no care was taken to preserve the remains, the urn was broken to fragments, and, probably, other beads were lost . . . . The ornamentation of the urn is rude and irregular." Sir Henry Dryden made a drawing of the urn as it would be in its perfect state, but that gentleman doubted whether the original article was as much as two feet high, because one of the fragments of what seemed to be the largest part gave a diameter of only 13 inches. Some of these broken pieces were handed over to Mr. Piggot, the steward of the Earl of Bradford, the owner of the site of discovery, and some of them were given to Mr. Dawes. At the time he wrote his account they were in his possession.

Another part of the town has, so recently as the 19th April, 1887, yielded a treasure in the shape of a stone maul or hammer-head. This interesting relic of the neolithic age was found in the alluvial sand, about six feet below the surface, at the east end of the promenade in the Bolton Public Park, Chorley New Road. Besides having been exhibited to the members of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, assembled at the Chetham College Library, Manchester, on the 9th of the following September, its genuineness has also been attested by Professor Evans, of Oxford, author of *Bronze Implements, Arms, and Ornaments of Great Britain and Ireland.*

What other relics of ages past still remain to be unearthed time alone can show. Notwithstanding the rapid march of civilization, such proofs of the colonisation of this part of the country of the ancient Brigantes—who at the memorable invasion caused more trouble to the Roman generals and their powerful legions than all the rest of the country combined—as are here described will suffice to show that, like other and larger districts, the land now constituting Bolton and its suburbs was not altogether discarded by the sturdy Briton as a barren waste or boggy marsh.

CHAPTER IV.

ROMAN PERIOD.

Decay of Druidism—First Roman Invasion of Britain—Second Descent of the Romans—Territory of the Brigantes—The Invaders Victorious—Rise of Christianity—Frieslanders Settle in the North—Roman Stations in Lancashire—Great Roman Roads: Local Connections at Blackrod, Walkden, Radcliffe, Cockey Moor, Bradshaw, and Edgworth—The Site of Roman "Coccium"—Roman Station at Blackrod—Relics at Ainsworth—A Century of Peace—Constantine the Great—Britain Divided into Provinces.

IN 43 A.D. the Emperor Claudius sent Aulus Plautius with a powerful Roman army to again invade Britain. From this period the history of the Romans in this country dates. The Roman Emperor visited England in person in the year following that in which the Britons were subjugated, and was present at the taking of Camalodunum (Colchester). It was here that he assumed the title of Britannicus, leaving Plautius to prosecute the war.

How victory favoured the Romans now and the natives again, amid scenes of terrible slaughter and barbarity, does not come within the province of this volume to relate; sufficient that brave as the Britons were their power fell before the might of the Romans, and that Druidism became little more than a name, the seeds of Christianity being sown in the country meanwhile.

It was not till the reign of Domitian that Lancashire was finally conquered by the invaders under Julius Agricola, successor to Suetonius; though Petilius Cerealis (governor of Britain during the reign of the Emperor Vespasian) had made great inroads into "the warlike nation of the Silures," as mentioned by Tacitus, "upon which he was most if not wholly occupied." Hollingworth, in his *Mancuniensis*, the original manuscript of which was written anterior to the year 1656, and is deposited in the Chetham Library, Manchester, says:—"In Vespasian's time, Petilius Cerealis strooke a terror into the whole land by invading upon his first entry the Brigantes, the most populous of the whole provinces, many battailes and four bloudy ones were fought, and the greatest part of the Brigantes were either conquered or wasted." It is recorded that the progress of the invaders was greatly arrested by the skill and valour of Venutius, the native general. But the discipline of the Romans under Agricola struck panic into the districts of the Brigantes, which included, besides Lancashire, the Counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Durham, and Yorkshire.* Thus the work begun by Cerealis was completed by Agricola. Lancashire, or, as then called, "the country of the Segantii," was taken by the Roman legions, and was compelled to give hostages. This would be about the year 79 A.D.

It has been written that in the army of Agricola, which routed for a time the North Britons—particularly the Segantii—there was a cohort chiefly composed of Frisians, who had been enrolled under the Roman banners after their insurrection against, and subsequent subjection to, the powers and laws of the Roman Empire. There appears to be little doubt that Agricola's soldiery passed through Lancashire on their northward march, and that a cohort of Frisians took up their station hereabouts—certainly within a few miles of Bolton. This has been proved by Camden, whose statements have been adopted by the Rev. J. Whitaker (author of the *History of Manchester*), and Mr. John Brown (author of an unfinished *History of Bolton*, printed in 1824), though the last-named endeavours to show that so early as 28 A.D., a large colony of Frieslanders crossed into

* The British inhabitants of Lancashire, Westmoreland, Cumberland, and as far as Craven, in the County of York, were denominated Western Brigantes, to distinguish them from that portion of the tribe inhabiting the eastern coast of the island.—Rauthmel's *Antiquities of Overborough*.

Britain in order to escape the oppression of Rome, and whilst traversing the country from east to west, fixed their residences in Lancashire. An interesting discovery—one establishing the fact that a body of this people located themselves in our neighbourhood—was made in the time of Camden, in the nature of a stone, bearing an inscription, which Mr. Whitaker describes as "an honorary monument erected over the grave of a young Frisian Centurion, in the First Frisian cohort." The inscription was copied by John Dee, then Warden of Manchester College, and by him given to Camden when in Manchester, in the latter part of the 16th century. From this we gather that the early inhabitants of our district were a mixture of Britons, Romans, Frieslanders, and at a later period, of Saxons.

However, to complete his conquest of the Segantii, Agricola constructed castles with lines of defences drawn around them. This method of protection was, in all probability, the origin of our Roman stations; the want of confidence in the Britons, in a measure, compelled the Romans to fix their camps on or near the site of their towns, and a guard drawn from a legion was there stationed. The camps of the Romans, which are supposed to have given rise to many of our towns and cities, at the same time appear to indicate some prior settlement of the Britons. "Agricola himself," says Tacitus, "chose out the places for the Camps, sounded every Ford, and searched every Wood. He left the enemy no resting-place, that he might not be liable to their sudden incursions; and, when he had sufficiently terrified them, he shew'd them the flattering Face of Peace."

In 84 A.D. Agricola returned to Rome. In the course of a hundred years there was constructed in Lancashire no fewer than eight Roman stations. These were found at Manchester *(Mancunium)*, Warrington *(Veratinum)*, Ribchester *(Rerigonium)*, Colne *(Colunium)*, Lancaster *(Ad Alaunam)*, Overborough *(Bremetonacæ)*, and Wigan or Blackrod *(Coccium)*. The commencement of the formation of roads from station to station is attributed to Agricola, but it was not until the time of Emperor Antoninus, about 120 A.D., that their number was vastly augmented.

After the lapse of sixteen centuries, the County Palatine of Lancashire has not lost its riches in records and relics of the

presence of the ancient Romans, for at least four great roads formed by them are known to pass through the county—two of them from north to south, and two from west to east. The first of these extends from Carlisle *(Luguvallium)* in Cumberland to Kinderton *(Condate)* in Cheshire. Passing through Lancaster, this road proceeds nearly due south, near to Garstang and Preston, and thence to Blackrod; and, taking the direction of Walkden Moor, it advances and crosses the highway from Manchester to Warrington, passing through Old Trafford and Stretford, to the bridge over the Mersey. It here points to Altrincham and enters Dunham Park, extends to Mere Town, and, finally, to Kinderton.

The second Roman road stretches from Manchester to Overborough in Yorkshire, *vid* Ribchester. From Manchester it proceeds through Strangeways, stretching along near to the site of the Old Tollgate at Kersal Moor, and straight on to Prestwich, adjacent to Pilkington Old Hall, near Radcliffe, through the plantation at the Dales; thence into the fields northward, where the elevation is distinctly traceable to the termination of an old lane from Goat's Gate. It here descends the steep banks of the Irwell, and passes on through Cockey Moor near the eastern limit of Breightmet; advancing through Bradshaw to Offyside—or as now called Affetside—which forms the boundary between Bradshaw and the Manor of Tottington and Edgworth; thence to the Bull's Head Inn, at the boundary of Quarlton; and so on to Ribchester. Referring to that portion of the road running *vid* Quarlton, Mr. John Just, in a paper read before the members of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society on the 22nd March, 1842, gave the account of an interview with a farmer at Spen Moor, in that vicinity, who had frequently to cut through the substratum of the road when draining his lands. When asked by Mr. Just and his travelling companions to show them in what direction the road ran, the farmer led them to a field below the farm house, and pointed out where this gravelly substratum was found—the very line of the road. He observed that the hard gravelly bed was about seven or eight yards broad, about half-a-yard thick, and a foot below the surface of the soil, just beneath the reach of the plough. When asked if he ever heard anything about what it was, the farmer replied: "It was an old road that the devil made, called the devil's way by the

old people still." This road had been lost sight of by others, who, though latently, had decided that the road passed through that neighbourhood, had not traced its formation. Mr. W. Thompson Watkins, in his *Roman Lancashire* published in 1883, briefly notices this road, and adds: "There is a mound, now much reduced, at Quarlton, about a mile east of Turton, and half a mile east of the Roman road from Manchester to Ribchester, which appears to have been a *botontinus*."

The third Roman road begins near the Ribble at a point called the Neb of the Nase, and proceeds to Ribchester, thence passing over Longridge Fell, and ultimately traces the Hodder to its source. The fourth route commences at the ford of the Mersey, near Warrington, and crosses Barton and Eccles to Manchester; thence to Littleborough, mounting the Pennine Chain, and terminating at Ilkley in Yorkshire.

It may be accepted with confidence that there have been no discoveries made which might lead us to think that the Romans made this portion of the province of the Brigantes into an acknowledged station, garrison, or town.

Many writers have asserted that Blackrod was the "Coccium" of Antoninus, whilst Walton-le-Dale, near Preston (where the remains of a Roman station were discovered in 1855 by Mr. Charles Hardwick), has also been credited with being that of Coccium. As the result of extensive researches by the Rev. Mr. Sibson and Mr. Thicknesse (M.P. for Wigan 1847-1854), it is more generally believed that Wigan can claim the name of "Coccium." "These gentlemen," says Mr. Sinclair, in his *History of Wigan*, "have proved beyond doubt that it—Coccium—was not Blackrod, but Wigan. Although Blackrod has been considered by some to have been a Roman station, its claim can be established neither by relics nor records, whereas Wigan has clearly been proved to have been one." It is a fact, so far as forthcoming information shows, that nothing indicative of a Roman settlement has been found at Blackrod beyond a few horse shoes; whilst, on the other hand, at Wigan, many very interesting discoveries of a Roman character have been made. The principal one of these was unearthed during the restoration of the Parish Church of that town. It is supposed to be the remains of a Roman altar.

Mr. W. Thompson Watkins most emphatically attributes

to Wigan the Coccium of Roman date, and clearly corroborates his assertion by many striking and conclusive evidences. "There is," he says, "another fine Roman road leading from Manchester to Wigan. Its existence was not known until the last century, when the Rev. J. Whitaker described a small portion of it as far as Worsley, but he there lost sight of it, and, considering as the original the branch which it throws off, he made it lead to Blackrode. The road averages 13 yards in width, and has been paved. At Wigan evidences of a Roman station have of late years accumulated, and its distance from Manchester, by the Roman road, almost exactly agrees with the Itineray distance of *Coccium* from *Mancunium*. Wigan, therefore, seems undoubtedly to be the former station. "Such," continues Mr. Watkins, "was the Roman road connecting Wigan with Manchester, a fine paved causeway. Leave this road unnoticed, and we are as far off a solution of the Tenth Iter of Antonine as ever—with it all is plain. Yet the knowledge of its existence is only fifty years old. Whitaker knew it only as far as Worsley, and assumed it went to Blackrode. To Mr. Sibson the credit of tracing it fully is justly due."

It is supposed that a branch road from the one traced by Mr. Sibson led through Blackrod, starting from near Heath Lane or Chorlton Fold, on the Wigan Road. The Roman road from Manchester crosses Walkden Moor, and was there known as Stanney Street. Thence it passed to Street Gate, near Peel, and on to Little Hulton, where it was discovered only a few years ago, and at that point it was seen to be paved and only about ten feet wide. Slight remains between here and Lane Ends have from time to time been discovered. The road then passes through Over Hulton, Chequerbent, by Street Gate [Streddle Yate], Westhoughton, Wingates, and Highgate Lane; it then leads to Castle Croft, at Blackrod.

It is not denied to Blackrod that a small station, or outpost existed there, but only that, notwithstanding its elevation and importance as a military position. There is every reason to believe from the researches of many antiquaries and archæologists well versed in the pursuit of Britanno-Romano study that a Roman outpost occupied the site of a part of Blackrod, now known as the "Castle Croft," situated at the south-eastern extremity of the village, about half an acre in extent. For this

purpose a better position could not possibly have been chosen. Little vigilance would be required by the soldiery so stationed to perceive the approach of that native enemy whose presence in the thick forests of Horwich and upon the hills of Rivington must have been well-known to the Romans. The Rev. J. Watson and Mr. Thomas Percival, in the *Archæologia* (Vol. I.) state that a small station existed at Blackrod; and the latter gentleman observed that there was then to be seen a middle-sized fort, though he did not suppose "that it covered more than an angle of the city, and the city to be much larger." Mr. Sibson adds, "Nor have any Roman antiquities been found at Blackrod except that in Castle Croft—on the summit of the hill—where there appears to have been a small fortress of observation."* Mr. Whitaker altogether rejects the idea that the Roman station was ever on the Castle Croft site, but places it in a curve of the River Douglas. Whilst Mr. W. T. Watkins, though not agreeing with the Manchester historian, remarks that "whether any small Roman post ever stood in the Castle Croft is still an open question; certainly no remains have been found since Whitaker's time (1757), though it is quite possible an outpost may have been there."

Several writers connect Ribchester with the Roman Coccium, but this consensus of opinion was formed long anterior to the discovery either of the ancient road to Wigan or the almost conclusive "finds" in the foundations of its Parish Church. This theory would not agree with the prescribed distance of Antoninus, which shows that Coccium was only *seventeen* miles from Mancunium. Ribchester and Manchester are *thirty* miles apart. This fact would accord with the data of those who seek to identify Blackrod as the Roman station in dispute. As already stated, Wigan also answers the required distance, and though an important item in the history of Blackrod—a township occupying a place of distinction in the ancient Parish of Bolton—is consequently sacrificed, it must be admitted that the weight of evidence is in favour of Wigan.

The next point of interest pertaining to the presence of the Romans in the Parish of Bolton is to be found at Ainsworth, designated "Cockey Moor." Under the heading of "Ainsworth" in *Lewis's Topographical History of England* the following note

*Baines's *History of Lancashire*, 1st Ed., Vol. III., p. 586.

appears: "Roman coins have been found at Ainsworth, or 'Cockey Moor,' about three miles E.N.E. of Bolton, closely adjoining the direct Roman road from Manchester to Ribchester, but of what period of the empire cannot now be ascertained." This spot, like those already mentioned, has been set up as a Roman settlement. Furthermore, one writer, at the beginning of the present century, claims for it the name of Coccium. The feasibility of the statement is somewhat vague, but in justice to its originator—Mr. Alfred Hadfield, of Breightmet Hill—it has been decided to place on permanent record in these pages a letter, *in extenso*, bearing on the local Roman discoveries of his time, as it appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, October 9th, 1807. It reads:—

In a field in this neighbourhood there have been found at different times small Roman urns or pots, containing the ashes of those who lived in less polished, though not perhaps in less turbulent times. The present proprietor of this land assures me that he himself, a few years ago, found twelve urns which retained their original shape, but which upon being exposed to the external air soon diminished into dust; so that it was not possible to take a drawing of them in order to ascertain their correspondence with other urns found in different parts of the island. The description of them, however, seems to be this: They lay in a stratum of earth not much more than a quarter of a yard in depth, in a regular form, something like the jars in the lower shelves of an apothecary's shop; and it was very evident, I am told, that they contained the ashes of the dead. Many persons have, I understand, at different times, discovered in the same ground urns of the same nature; and a farmer has just told me that he remembers having seen, in digging and ploughing this land, small particles of bones which were evidently human; and in one spot in particular he says there may be found at any time in a certain direction the strongest proof that can be given that this field was some time or other a place of sepulture for the dead. Camden mentions, I believe, as I have not his book by me—I speak merely from recollection—that in this neighbourhood was situated the ancient *Coccium* spoken of by Antoninus, a noted settlement in the time of the Romans. It appears, therefore, very probable that it was this part of the country to which he alludes, and that this field, containing the remains of human bones, was appropriated by the Romans as a place of burial for the dead. It may not, perhaps, be amiss here to observe that about a quarter of a mile from this hill, on the Bury road, there is a hamlet or village called Cockey Moor, or, according to some old maps, Cockley Moor, in the Township of Ainsworth, and Parish of Middleton; and perhaps it may be no violent stretch of conjecture to suppose that this place derived its name from its proximity to Coccium, if it did not once form a part of that settlement. It is very certain that Camden makes mention of this place, as he speaks of the "little old wooden chapel surrounded with trees," and I think he adds he saw this chapel when he was searching for the remains of the ancient Coccium. The twelve urns which I have mentioned were somewhat of a cylindrical form, in appearance very much resembling those earthen pots which farmers use in this country to keep their cream in previous to its being churned, or applied to other useful purposes. Every urn contained (which is very remarkable) in the top part of it, a small bone about two inches in length; and this bone appears to have been placed, not accidentally, but designedly, upon the ashes of the deceased within the pot. Whether this may have been done in conformity with any religious, or rather superstitious, custom of the Romans, I cannot say; but certainly so much regularity would not have been observed in the disposition of these bones had it not been intimated to us that something more was meant by it than we are acquainted with at present; and which from the remoteness of the period when these interments took place must still, I am afraid, remain in darkness and be left undecided. We know very well that the lower orders of people among the Greeks and Romans did not always burn the bodies of their deceased friends entirely into ashes, and therefore they made use of larger *urns* sufficiently capacious to receive the unburnt bones as well as ashes of the dead; but in this instance there were twelve bones, and each urn contained one bone only on the top part of it. What I have before observed does, I conceive, sufficiently prove that a Roman settlement must have been in this neighbourhood, and we are authorised to conclude that it must have been the ancient Coccium, and that this Coccium, or, as it is spelt in the old maps of Lancashire, Cocoium, must have been situated in that part of the country called "Breightmet Hill."

The fact of the matter is this. Camden never said, and perhaps never thought, that Coccium was situated anywhere near Breightmet, Cockey Moor, or Ainsworth. But he simply expresses himself in these words:—

> As I was seeking eagerly, near the Irwell, for Coccium, mentioned by Antoninus, I saw Cockley, a wooded chapel among trees, Turton Chapel among precipices and wastes, Turton Tower and Entwissel, two houses whereof the latter had noble proprietors of its own name, and the former is now the residence of the illustrious family of Orell.

After the death of Constantine the Great, disturbances were revived in North Britain, and from the time of dividing the country into two consular provinces—Maxima Cæsariensis and Valentia—and into three præsidial districts—Britannia Prima, Britannia Secunda, and Flavia Cæsariensis (Lancashire being included in the first-named province and in the last-named district)—the power of the Romans rapidly declined; further, the northern part, at any rate, of the empire was menaced with desolation by the Continental barbarians.

CHAPTER V.

SAXON PERIOD.

Coming of the Saxons—The Anglo-Saxons—Coccium Besieged—Saxon Towns in Lancashire—The Northern Kingdom of Deira—St. Augustine in Britain—Revival of Christianity—The Early English Church—Northumbria—Battle of Maserfeld—Memorials at Winwick—St. Cuthbert's Devotion—Peace Restored—Union of the Kingdoms—Landing of the Danes—Cruelty and Destruction.

O retard the incursions of the Picts and Scots the Britons appealed to the Romans for assistance, and on two occasions, eventually, succeeded in their solicitations. The harassing, however, continued, and the British ambassadors carried (at the instigation of the people) a letter to Ætius, the Roman Emperor, which was termed the "Groans of the Britons," and pleaded for the protection of the Romans against the incursions of the Picts and Scots, "who," they said, "on the one hand, chase us into the sea; the sea, on the other, throws us back upon the barbarians; and we have only the hard choice left us of perishing by the sword or by the waves." The Romans could not reply favourably again; their arms were required nearer home. Deserting their habitations, the Britons sought refuge in the mountains and forests, where they suffered severely from hunger. The

barbarians took possession of the country, but, experiencing the pressure of famine, betook themselves to their own northern possessions, laden with articles of plunder. This evacuation induced the Britons to return to their usual mode of life. For a short time they lived in comparative peace.

The Anglo-Saxons divided the country, at length, into seven principal parts, which were called the seven kingdoms of the Heptarchy, viz., Kent, Sussex, Wessex, Essex, East Anglia, Mercia, and Northumbria. All these were governed by petty kings, who in course of time made rival claims. Hereupon their struggles began.

Corry, writing of this period, in his *History of Lancashire*, says :—

> Ambrosius defeated the Britons in several battles. Proceeding southward, he invaded the country of Sistuntii, and displayed his hostile banners in Lancashire. The Sistuntii bravely opposed the Angles or Saxons at Overborough, and withstood them till reduced by famine. The town was almost totally destroyed by the barbarous conquerors, who marched to besiege Coccium or Blackrode, then the metropolis of the Sistuntii, where a determined garrison braved a victorious foe. The Saxons were, however, irresistible ; they besieged Blackrode, took it by storm, and reduced it to ashes.

Whence Corry's statements regarding the siege of Coccium emanate is not given ; neither does he submit his authority for connecting that Roman station with Blackrod, and for calling it "the metropolis of the Sistuntii." Many writings bearing upon the battles of the Saxons in this country have been consulted in the endeavour to elucidate the matter, but nothing save failure has been the outcome of a most diligent research.

However, it is certain that the victorious Anglo-Saxons spread themselves over the land and built rude towns. They likewise took possession of Lancashire, which from all accounts would not have been the case without great resistance by its British—or rather Britanno-Romano—inhabitants. Possession once gained it was an almost invariable custom for the Saxons to choose as a place of habitation a hill near a water supply. They then fortified themselves against the attacks of the enemy, and at once proceeded to build a place of worship, for such were the foremost necessities of Saxon town building.

In the course of a few years a great army of Saxons landed in the north of Britain, overran Lancashire, and really conquered more than half the kingdom. The southern part of the country was likewise ransacked and devastated—human life not sufficing to quench the invaders' eagerness for complete victory. For we learn that "from east to west nothing

was seen but churches burnt and destroyed to their very foundations. The inhabitants were extirpated by the sword, and buried under the ruins of their own houses; and the altars were daily profaned by the blood of Christians, who during their devotions were slain on them by their merciless persecutors."

About the year 547, Ælla, a Saxon Prince, having conquered Lancashire and the greater part of Yorkshire, received the title of King of Deira. That portion of the kingdom north of the Humber, called Bernicia, which had been subdued by another Saxon Prince, named Ida, was united with Deira by Ælla.

In the sixth century of the Christian era, not long after the settlement of the Saxons in England, they embraced Christianity, and consequently soon discontinued their Pagan rites, amongst which "barrow" burial constituted a prominent part. The revival of Christianity had been commenced by the ministrations of Pope Gregory's missionaries, and its influences spread throughout the length and breadth of the land. It was by Ethelbert, king of Kent, and his Christian Queen Bertha, that St. Augustine and his companions (Pope Gregory's Italian mission) were so favourably received on their arrival in Kent in 597. With such rapidity did this religion gain ground that in the time of Ethelwolf, son of Egbert, it had triumphed over the Saxon idolatry, and numerous churches and monasteries were built in the eighth and ninth centuries, not only by the different kings of the Heptarchy, but by rich laymen.

Paulinus—one of St. Augustine's "holy men"—is credited with reviving Christianity in Northumbria in or about the year 625. He became chaplain to Ethelburga, the queen of Edwin, king of Northumbria. Edwin* had been restored about 617 to his kingdom as rightful heir of his father, King Ælla, who held Deira contemporaneously with Ida holding Bernicia. After some years of hostility these two kingdoms were united. On Edwin's accession they received the name of Northumbria. Mr. Green, in his *History of the English People*, differs somewhat in his account of the union of Deira and Bernicia, contending that they were joined under King Æthelfrith, and that such union formed the kingdom of Northumbria.

* It is recorded that King Edwin was baptised in a temporary Church, dedicated to St. Peter, which was soon replaced by a Cathedral. This afterwards became the seat of the Archbishop of York, and was the centre whence Christianity spread over the north of England.

The kingdom of Northumbria was afterwards governed by a nephew of Edwin, named Oswald, during whose eight years' reign—634-642—a number of missionaries from among the monks of the Monastery of Iona were invited by the King to preach throughout his domains. In 642, Oswald of Northumbria attempted to deliver the crestfallen people of East Anglia from the dominance of Penda and the thralls of heathenism; but in a decisive battle, called "the Battle of Maserfeld," he was, unfortunately, overthrown and slain. His body was mutilated, and its limbs set on stakes by the brutal victor. The place of this battle is claimed by many to be Winwick, near the site of St. Oswald's Church. There is also a well in the same locality known as St. Oswald's Well.

Bede, the historian, relates that the spot where Oswald fell was celebrated for restoring health to men and beasts, the earth having been carried away by persons anxious to avail themselves of its marvellous powers, and a well or fosse had been formed in consequence. In the churchyard of Winwick is a Saxon cross, which goes to show that Christian worship was performed here in the seventh century, and it has been suggested that the cross might have been erected to the memory of the good but unfortunate King. Shortly after this event another monk, St. Cuthbert, devoted himself to the spread of the Gospel, wandering sometimes on foot and at other times on horseback, pouring forth as he went the truths of the Scriptures as he had been taught them. Great was his task, and greater his success. To perpetuate his good name, no fewer than four churches in Lancashire alone, erected prior to the close of the seventeenth century, were dedicated to his memory. These were situated respectively at Lytham, Ober Kellett, Halsall, and North Meols.

Passing over the successive reigns of the Kings of Northumbria, it is recorded that after the death of Ethelred, King of the same domains—794 A.D.—there was an interregnum for some thirty years, "in which time," says William of Malmesbury, "this whole province (wherein Bolton must have its share) was made a prey and laughing stocke to its neighbors." Civil wars extended over a period of many years, and it was not until the reign of Egbert that general peace was somewhat restored by the annexation of all the petty kingdoms—the last to submit being Northumbria—and the placing of them all under his own control,

To East Angles, Mercia, and Northumbria Egbert granted power of electing kings subject and tributary to himself. Thus England was virtually united in 827. The title of "King of the English" was first adopted by Edward the Elder, son of Alfred the Great.

An important change was now close at hand—one affecting the whole country. Scarcely had the first fruits of the union of Saxon England been shown by an expedition of Egbert into Northumbria, than the kingdom was threatened by other enemies from across the sea. These were the Danes, or Northmen, from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, and they were less civilised perhaps than the Saxons. Being of savage and piratical habits, they carried a blood-red flag, bearing a black raven, which they used in divination. The flag was the signal of fire and bloodshed.

King Egbert died in 836, shortly after the Danish invasion, though the new comers did not become entirely possessed of the country till long after his death. During many incursions the Danes ravaged the land, destroyed towns, laid waste fortifications, and carried off everything valuable.

When Alfred the Great ascended the throne he found the English again sunk into the grossest ignorance and barbarism, emanating from the disorders of the government and the ravages of the Danes. He, however, soon recovered most of the lost land and kept the Northmen in comparative abeyance. Again, in the second Ethelred's time (978-1014) the Danes were gaining ground; but the King seeing this caused their destruction by a general massacre. Sweyn, King of Denmark, threatened revenge, whereupon Ethelred sought safety in Normandy, thus leaving Sweyn to his successes, and to be made the King of England, with the country entirely in his power. An enjoyment of a few weeks upon the throne of his newly conquered possessions was all that was permitted to Sweyn, death overtaking him. His son, Canute, succeeded to the throne, and in turn the country was governed by Harold I., Hardicanute, Edward the Confessor, and Harold II., from whom it passed by conquest to William, King of Normandy—afterwards called "William the Conqueror."

CHAPTER VI.

NORMAN PERIOD.

The Norman Conquest—Avarice and Confiscation—Fighting Men Raised in Lancashire and Cheshire—Bravery of the Northmen—Christis Crofte—Lancaster and Liverpool Castles—"Bodelton," or "Botheltun" Manor—Boundaries of "Loncaces-shire"—The Domesday Book—Norman Terms—The Hundred of Salford—"Radeclive"—Taxation—Levies on Botheltun (Bolton)—The "Vill of Boulton."

N the year 1066—possibly the most important period in the annals of English history—William, son of Robert, Duke of Normandy, contested the right of Harold II. to the crown of England. His army was composed of active and valiant troops, who were the flower of all the Continent. They were picked men from Bretagne, Bologne, Flanders, Poictou, Maine, Orleans, France, and Normandy, who were united under his command. Harold was supported by vast forces, strongly attached to their king, and eager to engage. In fact, the contending armies were both powerful and desperate.

The valour of Harold's warriors, though at first effective, was ultimately of no avail, for William of Normandy was victor. On his conquest he was peaceably put in possession of the throne. The Primate made submission to him in the name of the clergy,

and all the chief nobility declared an intention of yielding to his authority. He was duly crowned at Westminster by the Archbishop of York, and took the oath used in the times of the Saxon and Danish kings, namely, "to protect and defend the Church, to observe the laws of the realm, and to govern the people with impartiality."

The King soon raised a number of fortresses in the country, and indulged his avarice, and that of the more faithful of his followers, by numerous confiscations. He secured complete power by humbling all who were able to make any resistance. He thereupon confiscated almost all the estates and possessions of the Saxon and Danish leaders, and granted the same to his own barons. Nay, the chieftains were not only deprived of their possessions—they were entirely excluded from every road that led to honour or preferment, whilst the peasantry were reduced to penury and starvation. This state of affairs, naturally, was far from being agreeable to the English, and was not allowed to proceed without resistance. Armies were raised in Lancashire and Cheshire by Earls Morcar and Edwin, who manfully revolted from this grinding tyranny. The city of York was fixed upon as their stronghold. This opposition to the disciplined troops of the Norman King was futile—only deferring their downfall for a few months. Thousands of brave lives were sacrificed, and of these not a few must unquestionably have been withdrawn from our own town and neighbourhood.

One of the most distinguished barons of William the Conqueror was Roger de Poictou, and he proved himself worthy of his King's admiration. He erected the castles of Lancaster and Liverpool, on the Lune and Mersey, and in various other ways rendered valuable services to the royal cause. For this allegiance and valour the King gave him all the land situated between the Ribble and the Mersey—comprising no less than 188 manors; these included that of Bodelton or Botheltun.

At the time of the great survey ordered by the King, taken from 1080 to 1086, the Lancashire estates at least were recorded to be in the possession of the Crown. It is, however, somewhat remarkable that Lancashire, by name, does not appear in the survey. This may perhaps be better explained by pointing out that the part "lying between the Ribble and the Mersey" is surveyed under Cheshire, and the northern part of the county,

including Amounderness and the Hundred of Lonsdale, is placed under Yorkshire. This omission was probably owing to the desolation of the land, caused by the terrible wars only just ended. For "so unsparing was the destruction of our district," says the county historian, "that the inhabitants would scarcely recognise their own lands." Thus it is that Lancashire, and especially the south-east part of it, receives no mention, and this is how the scanty return of names at the King's survey may be accounted for. At a later date Camden (p. 745), in allocating Lancashire, says, "Under those mountains, which shoot along through the middle of England, and interpose themselves as umpires and boundaries between divers shires, Lancashire lyeth towards the west—in the English Saxon tongue 'Lonca-ces-shire,' commonly termed Lonkashire, and the Countie Palatine of Lancaster, because it is notably known by the title of a County Palatine." He further states that it is enclosed between Yorkshire on the east and the Irish Sea on the west; the north being bounded by Westmorland and Cumberland, and on the south by Cheshire.

This old record was really a valuation of the English territory over which the King had control, whilst at the same time it produced statistics which he rightly thought essential to the better taxing of the lands and lordships. It also showed the King's possessions in both land and stock, also what dues he ought to reap each year from the various shires. That nothing might be wanted to render the record complete, and its authority perpetual, the survey—now called the "Domesday Book"—was executed by Norman Commissioners, consisting of nobles and bishops, all acting under royal appointment. This interesting work has been preserved, and an excellent translation made thereof by the late William Beamont, of Orford Hall, Warrington, being published as a "Literal Extension and Translation of Domesday Book."

Before making extracts bearing upon the locality of Bolton, it is expedient to a better understanding to explain some of the now obsolete terms used therein, not only of personages, but likewise of the relative value of land possessions. First, a "Thane" was the Saxon equivalent for a Norman baron. There were three classes—(1) the King's thanes, as holding directly from the Crown; (2) those holding under lords

of the manor; and (3) hereditary holders of land, called free-holders or yeomen. A "Serf" (from *servi*) was a bondman or woman employed only in and about the lord's house. A "Villein" was servile to his lord, who could sell or dispose of him at leisure, as in the manner of slaves. A "Bordar" held his small portion of land by the service of supplying the lord's *board* or table with eggs and other small articles of food. All these names are found in the succeeding "Domesday" extracts, whilst those of "Putary sergeant" and "Forester" will be found elsewhere. The last two terms apply to persons who were liable to provide both bed and board to any bailiff, sergeant, or forester who might, when engaged in his lordship's services, claim such conveniences.

A "Hide" of land was about 60 acres; a "Carucate," or carve, was as much land as one team could plough in a year, or equal to 100 acres. "Gelt," or geld, was a tax first imposed to maintain forces in England against the Danes, and is best known as "Dane-geld," or "Dane-gelt." This tax did not lose its name when it was levied upon the owners of land and other possessions for tribute money to procure peace with the Danish invaders.

In other parts of this history references are repeatedly made to an "Oxgang," which means, by admeasurement, 15 acres. A "Knight's fee" constitutes 24 carucates (or ploughlands). Camden says that this fee was so much inheritance as was sufficient to maintain a knight with convenient revenues for a year, which *temp.* Henry III., was £15. Others state the value to be from £20 to £40 per annum.

From the translation of this record the following is all that relates to possessions in the Hundred of Salford, and is given as appertaining to our own locality:—

King Edward held Salford. There are three hides and twelve carucates of waste land. There is a forest three leagues long and the same broad. There are many hays and an aery of hawks there.

King Edward held Radeclive (Radcliffe) for a manor. There is one hide, and another hide there belongs to Salford. The Church of St. Mary and the Church of St. Michael held in Mamecestre (Manchester) one carucate of land, free from all customs but the gelt.

To this manor or hundred belonged twenty-one berewicks, which so many thanes held for so many manors. In which there were eleven hides and a half and ten carucates and a half of land. The woods there are nine leagues and a half long and five leagues and a furlong broad.

One of these thanes, Gamel, holding two hides of land in Recedham (Rochdale), was free of all customs but these six—viz., theft, heinfare, forestel, breach of the peace, not keeping the term set him by the reeve, and continuing a fight after an oath given to the contrary. The fine for these was forty shillings. Some of these lands were free from every custom except gelt, and some were free even from the gelt.

The whole manor of Salford with the hundred rendered thirty-seven pounds and four shillings. Of this manor there are now in the demesne two carucates and [there are] eight serfs and two villeins with one carucate. The demesne is worth one hundred shillings.

Of the land of this manor these knights hold, by the gift of Roger de Poictou [*i.e.*] Nigel three hides and half-a-carucate of land, Warin two carucates of land, another Warin one carucate and a half, Goisfrid one carucate, and Gamel two carucates of land. In these [lands] there are three thanes and thirty villeins, and nine bordars, and one priest, and ten serfs: they have twenty-two carucates amongst them. The whole is worth seven pounds.

As previously stated, at the time of the Survey the lands between the Ribble and the Mersey were in the hands of the King, having been taken from Roger de Poictou for his defection to the royal cause. And although the honor of Lancaster was restored to him in the time of William Rufus, it was finally alienated on the banishment of Roger, 2 Henry I. (1102). It remained as crown land from that time till bestowed on Ranulf de Bricasard—sometimes named Randolph Meschines—the third Earl of Chester, son of Randolph, Earl of Carlisle. This is substantiated by an ancient charter in the British Museum. It was subsequently transferred to Roger de Maresy—variously spelt Meresheia, Meresheya, &c.,—of whom more anon.

In the reign of King John, as at the present time, the government of the country could not be carried on without taxation, and in many instances similar taxes were levied to those at present in vogue. Owners of land and other valuable possessions were the principal contributors, as being most affected thereby. The Chancery Rolls, preserved in the Public Record Office, London, contain many instances of these levies, which were generally made by the Sheriffs of the various shires. One of these rolls, relating to this town amongst other places, has been translated for this history. It is taken from the *Rotulus Cancellarii*, 3 John (1201-2), and is a record of accounts for the increase of the vills of Lancaster for half a year, by Richard de Vernon, Sheriff. He rendered "an account of x^{li} of the increase of Bolton for half a year of drengage; and of xl^{li} of the increases of the mill of Bothelton for the same term." The same Sheriff rendered "an account of x marks from Alan Fitz Alan to have sesin of the land of Pemberton and for the relief of that land and to have the right of xl^{li} against Nicholas Butler (Pincerna) . . . . And of v marks from William de Boulton to have the King's confirmation of vi oxgangs of land in Boulton which he gave to him when he was Earl of Moreton,

to hold by the service of x^{s} by the year. He delivered in the treasury on xiiii tallies. And he is quit."

Amongst the Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem preserved at the Public Record Office is one dated 49 Henry III. (7 February, A.D. 1265), relating to a certain piece of land and part of a mill in Bolton, which at that time were held of the King by Simon, son of Michael de Bolton. An abstract of this document reads :—" Inquisition made on the Saturday next after (the Feast) of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, touching the lands and tenements of Simon son of Michael, by William, clerk of Hotone; Adam son of Gilbert de Bolton, William de Bury living in Middleton, John de Griseheued, William de Heatone, Ralph de Boler'um, Simon de Thornbrandestind, John son of Henry of the same, William de Clahton, William Francis, John de Hoton, and John the servant of Henry de Boulton, who say by their oath that Simon son of Michael de Boulton held in chief of the Lord the King, in the vill of Boulton, on the day on which he died, two oxgangs of land in which are contained forty acres of land, and the eighth part of a certain mill, and he held nothing of others, and he paid by the year to the Lord the King for the land 5s. 10d., and for the mill 40d., &c. . . . . They also say that William, son of the same Simon, is his next heir, and he is of the age of 30 years and more, &c."

CHAPTER VII.

NORMAN PERIOD (CONTINUED).

Transfer of the Manor of Bolton to Ranulf de Blundeville—The Original Deed of Conveyance—Creation of the Earldom of Derby—Grants to William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby—Creation of "Bowelton" Fair and Market, A.D. 1251*—Gift of Land to Edmund "Crouchback."—Value of the "Vill of Bowelton"—Earls of Lancaster—Royal Possessions in Lancashire—Township Freeholds.*

HE Manor of Bolton afterwards passed by purchase to Ranulf de Blundeville, Earl of Chester (in the reign of King Stephen), being confirmed to him in 13 Henry III. (1228), for which, with the other possessions, he paid to Roger de Maresey forty marks, and afterwards two hundred marks more (£133 6s. 8d.), and a pair of white gloves, or one penny (for all services) at Easter annually.

In the preliminary chirograph, or charter, Roger de Maresey conveyed all the lands which he then held lying between the Ribble and the Mersey to the Earl—including Bolton and all its appurtenances—that is to say, whatever was possessed by Roger de Maresheya, in the Manor of Bolton, in Little Bolton, in Tonge, in Halghe, in Brethmete, in Ratecliffe, in Ormeston, in Weffeleg, in Sharplis, in Fanedisch (Standish), in Longeree (Longworth), in Sevington (Skevington),

in Chernoc, in Hedchernoc, in Dokesbury, in Adelvinton (Adlington), in Whitall (Whittle), in Hirelton, in Skaresbreck, in Heton near Lancaster, in Melner (Mellor), in Derwente (Darwen), and in Eccleshill, and in all other places belonging to the said lands. The original deed of conveyance of this transaction is still to be found amongst the great archives of the Duchy of Lancaster, and is thus extracted in English :—

To all, in the present and in the future by whom this present charter may be seen or heard, Roger Fitz Ranulph, of Marreshaye, greeting. Know ye that I have sold, and for myself and my heirs parted with to the Lord Ranulph, Earl of Chester and Lincoln, the Manor of Bolton, with all its appurtenances, and whatever may fall to me or to my heirs in the said manor, and in Little Bolton, in Tonge, in Haugh, in Brethmete, in Ratecliffe, in Urmston, in Weffeleg, in Sharples, in Haigh, in Huelton, in Skaresbrick, in Heton, near Preston, and in all other places pertaining to the aforesaid lands, the homages, services of fee, customs pertaining to the lordships, custodies, reliefs, rents, escheats, advocacies of churches *(advocationibus ecclesiarum)* which pertain to me and to my heirs, to have and to hold of me and my heirs to the aforesaid Earl and his heirs, freely, quietly, peacefully, and entirely by hereditary right in wood, in plains, in meadows, and in pastures, and in all places pertaining to those lands, he and his heirs paying yearly to me and my heirs certain white vestments or a penny at the feast of Easter, and in lieu of all demand for this rule the sum of two hundred marks of silver. And I and my heirs will maintain the aforesaid land for the said Earl and his heirs against all men. To the greater security whereof I have sealed the present charter with my seal in the presence of the Lord William Abbot of Chester, the Lord William Justice of Chester, Ralph de Bray, Richard de Burny, Wilfrid de Dutton, Wilfrid de Appleby, John de Lexinton, Master Gilbert de Weston, Roger de Derby, Simon and John religious (men or monks) and many others.

At Ranulf de Blundeville's death, he having no issue of his own, the whole of his inheritance passed to his sisters and co-heiresses. Maud married David, Earl of Huntingdon; Mabil married William de Albini, Earl of Arundel; Agnes married William, Earl Ferrers. The last-named Earl was the sixth in descent from Robert de Ferrers, who for his prowess at the Battle of the Standard in 1137 was raised by King Stephen to the earldom of Derby.

The third sister—Agnes—for her portion of these estates, had the Castle in Chartley, in Staffordshire, and lands in Wales, West Derby, Northampton, Lincolnshire, and all her late brother's lands "between the Ribble and the Mersey." This last possession afterwards passed to William, the eldest son of the said William de Ferrers, and he in 36 Henry III. (1251) obtained a charter for free warren and a Market and Fair for Bolton. The original Charter is preserved at the Public Record Office amongst the Charter Rolls. A translation reads :—

The King to his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, Knights, and to all whom it may concern, greeting. Know ye that we have granted, and by this our charter confirmed, to our trusty and beloved William de Ferrars, Earl of Derby, that he and his heirs shall have the lands and free warren in the Manors of Lyverpull, West Derby, Everton, Crosseby, Wavertree, Salford, Bowelton, Penelton, Buttelton, Swinehurst, Bourtonewood, and Cherlesh, in the county of Lancaster;

and also in all the lands in the Manors of Esseburne, Underwoode, [&c., &c.,] in the county of Derby; and in all the lands of the Manors of Tuttebury, Rolveston, [&c., &c.,] in the county of Stafford. And that upon these lands no other persons shall trespass without the license or will of the said Earl and his heirs, under a penalty of ten pounds. We grant to the said Earl also and to his heirs for ever, permission to hold a market at his aforesaid Manor of Bowelton, in the county of Lancaster, every seventh day; and also at the same place a fair once a year, extending over three days, that is to say on the eve and on the day and on the morrow of the Feast of St. Margaret the Virgin. And also a market at the aforesaid Manor of Uttockefather [? Uttoxeter], in the county of Stafford, every seventh day; and also a fair once every year, extending over three days, that is to say on the twentieth day after the Feast of the Annunciation of Mary. We grant also to the Earl, and to the Venerable Father in Christ, Roger, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and to the heirs of the said Earl and the successors of the said Bishop for ever, a market at the Manor of Heywode, in the said county of Stafford, every seventh day, and also a fair once a year, extending over three days, that is to say, on the twentieth day after the Feast of St. John the Baptist; all which markets and fairs are to be held, so as not to injure other existing fairs, and therefore we will and strictly charge the said Earl and heirs, who hold for ever the free warren and the manors and lands as aforesaid, that they hold the markets and fairs as we have granted them, that is a weekly market for ever at the Manor of Bowelton, and a yearly fair there; also a weekly market at the Manor of Uttocke-father, and a yearly fair; and as granted to the said Earl and the Venerable Father in Christ, the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, the heirs of the said Earl and the successors of the said Bishop, at the Manor of Heywode, in the county of Stafford, one fair as aforesaid, and a market as aforesaid. In witness whereof John Maunsel, Ralph Fitz Wise, William de Kilburn (Archdeacon of Coventry), John de Lessington, Robert Maleraund, Roger de Robinson, Ralph de Makepier, William de Chaeney, Hugh de Nevill, and others have set their hands at Windsor, the 14th day of December, in the 36th year of our reign [1251].

The next Lord of Bolton Manor was Robert de Ferrers (son of the above William), who in 50 Henry III. (1266) lost all his estates through his aid to Simon de Montfort. These lands Henry III. combined with the Honor of Lancaster, and gave them to his son Edmund—surnamed Crouchback—thus creating him the first Earl of Lancaster.*

Two original deeds of the gift of land in Bolton to Edmund Crouchback are still preserved amongst a beautifully engrossed collection of ancient Charters of the Duchy, entitled *Carta Regnum*, (*i.e.*, the "Great Charters.") The originals are in Latin, the first being thus translated :—

To all the faithful to whom this present writing may come, or by whom it may be heard, eternal salvation to the Lord, wishes Eva, the daughter of Edward de Thorbrondesheus. Know ye that I have given, granted, and quietly conceded for myself, and for my heirs, to the noble Lord Edmund, son to the illustrious Henry, King of England, and to his heirs and assigns, all the Tenement which appertains to me or my heirs in the town of Boulton,

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* He was first married at Westminster to Aveline, the daughter of William, Earl of Albemarle, and secondly to Queen Blanch, daughter of Robert, Earl of Artoys (brother of Saint Lewis, King of France), widow of Henry of Champaigne, King of Navarre. Speed, referring to this Earl of Lancaster, writes: "Edmund, borne Jan. 26, A. 1245, and of his Father's raigne 29, was surnamed Crouched-backe, of bowing in his backe, say some, but more likely of wearing the signe of the Crosse (anciently called a Crouch—so wee call the wooden supporters of impotent men, made like a crosse at the top, and Crouched Friers for wearing a Crosse) upon his backe, which was usually worne of such as vowed voyages to Jerusalem, as he had done. He was invested titular King of Siclia and Apulia, and created Earle of Lancaster (on whose person originally the great contention of Lancaster and Yorke was founded), and having of the grant of his Father the lands of Simon Montfort and Robert Ferrers (disinherited in the Barons' warres) was by vertue of the same graunt Earle of Leicester and Derby, and high Steward of England."

together with the tenement which was my dower of John Fitz Adam, my late husband, in the same town, held for my life, To have and to hold to the same Lord Edmund, his heirs and assigns, freely, quietly, and in peace, by hereditary right. And neither I nor my heirs, nor any others in my or their name, shall make any claims to the said tenement or its appurtenances, nor upon that which was my dower, upon the consideration that for this concession, gift, and quiet grant, the aforesaid Lord Edmund gives to me forty shillings. In testimony to which I have affixed my seal to this present writing, John de Gentil, John de Oxclyfe, Thomas Travers, William de Oxclyfe, William Fitz Simon de Boulton, John Fitz Adam of the same place, Adam de Rammeshoult, and others being witnesses.

The second translation reads :—

To all the faithful in Christ by whom these presents shall be seen or heard. Wilfrid Fitz Adam of Bolton sends perpetual greeting to the Lord. Know ye that I have given, granted, and altogether conceded, for myself and my heirs, to the illustrious Lord Edmund, son of the illustrious Henry, King of England, all my part in the watermills of Bolton, with the sheds and all other appurtenances whithersoever they may be found, To have and to hold to the said Lord Edmund, his heirs and assigns, quietly, freely, well, and in peace, by hereditary right for ever. And neither I, Wilfrid, nor my heirs, nor any one in my name, will lay any claim whatever to the aforesaid mill, for the which grant and gift the said Lord Edmund shall give to me forty shillings in hand. In witness whereof I have put my seal to this present writing, these being witnesses :—John le Gentil, John de Oxeclyf, William de Oxeclyf, Alan de Passles, William Fitz Simon, John Fitz Adam, and others.

By a similar deed the same Wilfrid gave to the said Edmund Crouchback all his interest in a messuage in Bolton. The witnesses to this transaction included William de Heton. By an inquisition *post mortem*, 25 Edw. I. (1297), this Edmund does not appear to have had any possessions in Bolton, nor even in the Hundred of Salford, though other lands formerly belonging to the Ferrers in West Derby, Leyland, and Amounderness, are enumerated in that interesting document.

According to another writing still extant in the Public Record Office, bearing date 16 Edward I. [16 February, A.D. 1288], it is proved that William de Ferrers at the time of his death held Bolton of Edmund of Lancaster (the King's brother), by service and suit at the Wapentake of Salford and the Court of Lancaster. The writing, which is an inquisition *post mortem*, is thus extracted :—

Inquisition taken at Bolton before Thomas de Normanville, Escheator of the Lord the King, on the Monday next after the Feast of the Blessed Scolastica the Virgin, in the sixteenth year of the reign of King Edward, by the oath of Robert, son of William de Leuere, Maurice de Haliwell, Nicholas of the same, John of the same, John de Tong, Roger del Wode, Hugh Carpenter, John Smith (Faber), Walter Le Folur, John le Hunte, Alexander Le Folur, and William Tailor (Cissor), that is to say, touching the lands and tenements which were of William de Ferrers, lately deceased, in the manor aforesaid, &c. . . Who say upon their oath that the aforesaid William held the aforesaid vill of Boulton of the Lord Edmund, the King's brother, by the service of doing suit at the Wapentake [Court] of Salford from three weeks to three weeks, and by doing suit at the County [Court] of Lancaster from six weeks to six weeks. Also they say that lxix burgages are held there, each of which returns by the year xijd., &c. Also they say that John Haliwell holds at will a moiety of xliij acres of land and burgages which are worth by the year xxs. And there are there xxxvj acres of land, each of which is worth by the year vd., sum : xvs. Also they say that the tolls of the weekly fairs (nundine) and of the market are worth by the year xliijs. Also they say that there is there a certain watermill which is worth by the year xxs. And the pleas and perquisites of the Court are worth nothing on account of the inability of the tenants. And they say that William, son of the aforesaid William, is his next heir, and he is of the age of xviij years.

The vill of Boulton is valued by the year at viij li. vijs.

Edmund Crouchback was afterwards made Earl of Chester, and about the same time the Pope created him King of Sicily, which latter title he renounced about the year 1263. By a royal grant dated 30th June, 51 Henry III. (1267), Prince Edmund received the honor, earldom, castle, and vill of Lancaster. The second Earl of Lancaster was Thomas, eldest son of Edmund, who, by his marriage with Alice, sole daughter of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, became the most opulent as well as the most powerful subject in England—possessing no fewer than six earldoms. Though his honours were many, his antagonism to the cause of the King—Edward II.—cost him his head. This was in 1322, when his lands (including Lancashire) were confiscated by the Crown. At this time he was seized of the Manor of Bolton. His brother Henry became the third Earl of Lancaster, on Thomas's attainder, 1 Edward III. (1327), and succeeded to most, if not to all, the lands and lordships connected therewith. A valuable document confirming the gifts—so far as appertains to this county—still exists,* bearing date 1331:—

Edward, by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitaine, to all to whom these present letters shall come, greeting, &c. . . . It appears to us by inspection of the Rolls of Chancery of our [? great] grandfather, that our [? great] grandfather made a Charter in these words, &c. [Then follows a recital of the grant (as already translated) to William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, by Henry III.] It appears that in the reign of the Third Edward the deeds relating to these Lancashire possessions in Henry III.'s time were missing, hence the necessity for royal and legal confirmation, for their better security, against all persons, to Henry, Earl of Lancaster. After the recitals above-mentioned the deed proceeds: And because the Charters aforesaid have been lost, We, at the request of our very dear and faithful kinsman, Henry, Earl of Lancaster, who now holds the aforesaid Barony, lands, and tenements, by the tenor of these presents have led them to be exemplified. In testimony of which we have caused these our Letters Patent to be made. Witness me myself at Wyndesore, the 28th day of October, in the 5th year of our reign (1331).

Henry, the Third Earl of Lancaster, died in 1344. On the death of Alice, relict of the second Earl (Thomas), her vast wealth descended to Henry, the Fourth Earl of Lancaster. This nobleman was created Earl of Derby, as already stated, by Edward III., so early as 1338, for his gallantry in military expeditions, and, eventually, he became Duke of Lancaster, receiving special command to "keep a strict guard upon the coasts of Lancashire, and to arm all the lanciers who were raised in his territories for the public service." He was not only a brave soldier but a pious citizen, hence he was styled "the Good Duke of Lancaster." An inquisition *post mortem* of this Duke, dated 35 Edward III. (1361), enumerates the freeholds of Bolton, Brightmet, Asphull, and Lostock.

* In the Public Record Office.

CHAPTER VIII.

NORMAN PERIOD (CONTINUED).

Aid from Farneworth—Heton—Little Leuere—Sharples—Snithell Westhalcton—Tourton—Halliwell and Rumworth—Judicial Localities—Robert Greslet and Horwich Moor—An extensive Hunting Ground—Bolton an important centre in the Fourteenth Century—Division of Lands—Rewards for Homage and Fealty in and around Bolton—Holdings in surrounding Townships: List of Principal Holders—Fees in Blackrod, Edgworth, Heaton, Rivington, Tonge, Little Bolton, Blackrod, and Breightmet—Further List of Possessions—Dukedom of Lancaster—Bolton-super-Moram—Bolton Tolls.

REAKING, for the present, the line of successive Dukes of Lancaster, it will be well to return to the early period when the land of this neighbourhood was duly and legally held by sub-possessors or under-lords.

We are informed that in the reign of Henry II. the Barony of Manchester was created, with Albert Greslet, or Gredale, as the first recorded Baron; he being under the superior rule of Roger de Poictou* The places in the Hundred of Salford most distant from Manchester, in the

*Kenion's MSS

Barony, comprised the Upper Bailiwick of Manchester; the bailiff and his retinue being supported "by the tenants of Farneworth, Heaton under the Forest,* Little Leuere, Anderton, Burnehill,† Anlasagh (Anglezark), the moiety of Sharples, Snithell, Westhalchton (Westhoughton), Childwall with its members, Dalton, Parbold, Worthington, Writington, Tourton, Bradshagh, Harewood, Halliwell, Brockholes, Rumworth, Loster [? Lostock], Aspull, Midlewood in Hulton, Pilkington, and Longeworth." The Lower Bailiwick included all the places within a circuit of not more than six or seven miles distant from Manchester. Every place mentioned in the upper Bailiwick were what were termed "judicial localities," where contentions of all kinds relating to disputes amongst tenants as to the extent or privileges of pasture, wood, or moor, were heard and adjudicated upon.

Soon after the final defection of Roger de Poictou, a large tract of land, contributing to the Barony of Manchester, was conceded to Albert Greslet, as well as other land in Amounderness and Leyland, and the Hundred of Salford, of which Horwich Moor was the centre. To these possessions of Robert Greslet (son of Albert) other land was added, making an extensive hunting ground in the Hundred of Salford, which stretched in a southerly direction from the high grounds in the neighbourhood of Anglezark and Sharples, where they border upon Blackburn Hundred, to the vicinity of Westhoughton, Kersley, Middle Wood in Hulton, and Farnworth, a distance of ten miles; while the breadth of this ground, of which, as has already been stated, Horwich Moor was the centre, varied from six to eight miles. The tract of land thus acquired by the first two barons of Manchester, therefore, formed the north-westerly boundary of Salford Hundred, and included Anglezark, Sharples, Longworth, Rivington, Turton, Smithells, Halliwell, Harwood, Little Lever, Bradshaw, Horwich, Heaton, Lostock, Rumworth, Pilkington, Deane, Aspull, Westhoughton, Hulton, and Farnworth. [Hibbert Ware's *History of the Ancient Parish Church of Manchester*, 1848.]

These townships and hamlets almost surround the town of Bolton, commencing on the north-east with Harwood, and proceeding north by north-west, and terminating direct south

*Probably meaning the Forest of Horwich. †Evidently referring to Burnden, near Bolton.

with Farnworth and Kersley. This is a circumstantial fact which should not be discarded, for nothing could more clearly indicate that Bolton was something more than either a barren waste of land or a thickly wooded forest used only for hunting purposes. This was early in the twelfth century,* when, of course, it has been evidenced that Bolton formed part of Ranulph de Bricasard's extensive possessions.

During the life of Albert Greslet (son of Robert), third Baron of Manchester, the requisitions of the Crown for carrying on expensive wars appear to have either induced or compelled this lord to make various gifts of some of his lands. Amongst these were two bovates of land in Anglezark to the Lathom family; three carucates in Rivington, Rumworth, and Lostock to the Pierpoints. This Albert also gave to Alexander Fitz-Umoch two bovates of land in Parva Lofre (Little Lever) for half a mark and twelvepence, or in lieu one of the smaller breed of hawks named a "nisus;" to Elias of Pennilbury lands in Slivehall (Snithell) for twelvepence, or one nisus, annually; and to William Noreys two bovates in Heaton, for rent of ten shillings. Besides these the Samelsbury and Harewode lands in Harwode and Sharples were also transferred to the Pierpoints, as were an increase of territory in Aspul, Turton, and Brockholes. Most of these latter gifts were rewards for services rendered to Robert Greslet in his assistance to Richard I. during his expedition to Normandy with a view of commencing hostilities against the French King,†

In 1320 the following tenants held their portions of land by knights' fees:—

Robert de Holland, John Devias, and Henry de Trafforde, for the eighth part of a knight's fee in *Bradshawe* and *Harewood*, homage and fealty and two suits at the court of Mamcestre, worth half a mark, paying yearly for sake at the four terms 18d., and for ward of Lancaster at the Feast of St. John 18d. and putary sergeant.

Richard de Hilton, for the tenth part of a fee in *Haliwal*, homage and fealty, paying yearly at terms as above for sake 8d., and for ward 9d., and putary.

* Robert Greslet died about 1135, and is supposed to have been buried within the walls of the monastery which he founded at Swineshead, in Lincolnshire.

† Fuller notes on this subject in Hibbert Ware's *History of the Ancient Church of Manchester*, 1848.

John de Heton, for the tenth part of a fee in *Heton-by-the-Forest*, homage and fealty, paying yearly for sake 8d., for ward 12d., and putary of the sergeant and of the foresters.

Richard de Hulton, for a third part of a fee in *Rumworthe* and *Lostocke*, homage and fealty and suit of court, worth yearly 3s. 4d., for sake 4s. 6d., for ward 3s. 6d., and putary of the sergeant and the foresters.

Richard de Hulton, for the twentieth part of Sugeye, in *Midelwood* and in *Hulton*, homage fealty, paying yearly for sake 4d., and for ward 7d., and putary.

William de Radcliffe, for tenements which belonged to Elias de Lever, in *Little Lever*, homage and fealty, paying by the year for sake 4d., and putary.

Adam de Sharples, for the twenty-fourth part of a fee in *Sharples*, homage and fealty, paying for castle ward of Lancaster, putary of the sergeant and forester as above, sum of sake 44s., sum of ward 49s. 3¼d.

Adam de Levre, Henry de Hulton, and Richard de Redeforde, for *Farnworthe*, homage and fealty, paying yearly at the four terms 6s., and putary sergeant.

Richard de Hulton, for *Heton-under-the-Forest*, homage and fealty, rendering yearly at the Feast of St. Michael one pair of spurs, or 2d., putary of sergeant and foresters.

Henry de Hulton, for the *Mosi-Haulghe in Farneworthe*, homage and fealty, paying yearly at the four terms as above 3s., and putary sergeant.

John, son of Adam Farnworth, for his tenants in *Farneworthe*, homage and fealty, paying yearly at the Feast of St. Michael 6d., and putary sergeant.

William de Radcliffe and William de Levre, for *Little Levre*, homage and service and suit of court, paying yearly at the four terms 7s., and at the Feast of St. Michael 12d., and putary sergeant.

Henry Trafforde, for *Sharples*, homage and fealty, paying yearly at the above terms 3s. 2d., and putary of the sergeants and foresters.

Robert de Pendilburie, for tenements in *Snythells*, homage and fealty, rendering yearly at the Feast of St. Michael one sparrow-hawk or 12d.

1344-8.—The whole of the Lancashire possessions once

held by the second and third Earls of Lancaster, were owned by Henry the fourth Earl and first Duke of the county.

A considerable portion of this land he granted to his followers for homage and service or nominal rents. The names of these holders, or tenants, with the amount of their liabilities to the Earl, were taken between the years 1325 and 1350, principally by Jollan de Nevil, and finished by his kinsman, Ralph de Nevil. This valuation is now known as the *Testa de Nevl*, or *Liber Feodorum*. This work contains a few entries relating to the neighbourhood of Bolton, therefore they claim a place here:—

LITTLE LEVER: Albert Gredle gave to Alexander, son of Umoch, two oxgangs of land in Little Levre by half a mark and 12d., or one *eyas hawk* (? sparrow hawk). The heirs hold that land.

RIVINGTON AND LOSTOCK: Albert Gredle, juvenis, gave to Thomas de Perponte three carves of land in Rawinton and Lostoc by the fee of a third part of one knight's. The heirs hold that land.

RUMWORTH: Richard de Perpoint holds a third part of a knight's fee in Rumheworth of the said fee. William de Worthington holds half a knight's fee in the same village. Roger de Pilkington holds a fourth part of a knight's fee in the same village.

SHARPLES: Roger de Samelisburie and Alexander Harewoode, hold one oxgang of land in Chapples (by 3s. rent) of Robert Gredle.

Another valuation of equal importance was taken about the year 1351, and has been handed down to us as *Birch's Feodary*. Its authenticity warrants the local extracts that are given hereafter. Similar holdings are mentioned in *Birch* as already extracted from the *Testa de Nevil*, but besides these many others of importance are recorded. On this account the notes are appended. As already shown, portions of Harwood, Rumworth, Lostock, and Rivington, were included in the Barony of Manchester (or, Mamcester), and were held by the Greslets, or Gredles, for a great number of years. They, in turn, received service for the holding of some of these lands, and it is to such tenants of local bearing that the following paragraphs relate.

HARWOOD: Robert and Thomas de Sothworth hold one carve in Harewood in Salforthshire, which Robert de Latham and Robert Salsbury held of the fee.

RUMWORTH AND LOSTOCK: The heirs of John, son of Henry de Hulton, hold of the said barony three parts of one knight's fee in Romworth with Lostocke, which Robert Parpoynte formerly held of the fee.

RIVINGTON: Albert de Gredley gave to Thomas Perepoint three carves of land in Rovington by the service of the fourth part of one knight's fee.

Other portions of territory in Bolton and the neighbourhood, also in the Hundred of Salford, were still held by the Duke or Duchy of Lancaster, including Little Bolton and Breightmet, viz.:—

LITTLE BOLTON: Roger de Bolton holds of the lord the duke the sixteenth part of one knight's fee in Little Bolton in Salford, which his ancestors formerly held of the Earl of Ferrers and (he) of the King.

BREIGHTMET: The heirs of Robert de Holland, knight, and Michael Devias, hold of the said duke the eighth part of one knight's fee in Breightmede, a hamlet in the vill of Bolton, which their ancestors formerly held of the Earl of Ferres and (he) of the King.

There were also certain fees in Bolton parish held as of the Barony of Hornby, which the *Feodary* thus records:—

BLACKROD: Hugh de Blakerode holds one carve in Blakerode, which was the fee of William Peverill by the service of 28s., and has therefore a charter of the lord the king.

EDGWORTH: William Radcliffe holds twelve oxgangs of land in Eggeworth in thanage by the service of 16s. 8d.—Gilbert de Notton holds four oxgangs of him, William, by the service of 5d. now. The father of the same William gave to Robert de Entwissell two oxgangs of land in marriage with his daughter.

HEATON: Albert Gredle, juvenis, gave to William Norens (? Norres) two carves of land in Heton by 10s. yearly. His heirs hold that land.

RIVINGTON: Alexander de Pakington (? Pilkington) held six oxgangs in Rovington in thanage by the service of 10s. yearly, but afterwards the sons of his mother's brother held that land. —William, son of William ————, holds twelve oxgangs of land in Rughynton in thanage by the service of 24s.

TONGE: Gilbert de Tang holds one oxgang of land of the lord the king in Tang, by the service of 4s.—Randle, son of Roger, holds four carves of land in chief of the lord the king, by the service of 4s. and one judge; and now his heirs are in the custody of Eustace de Norton by the lord the king.—William de Notton holds one carve of his heirs by the service of 8s. yearly.—Gilbert de Radcliff holds one carve of his heirs by the service of 6s. yearly.—Roger de Bolton holds one carve of land of the same by the service of the twelfth part of one knight's fee.—Adam de Urmeston holds one carve of land of him the heir.

The valuable work from which the foregoing extracts have been made also gives other holdings in the Salford Hundred. The references appertaining only to the district of Bolton are subjoined:—

BOLTON.—Roger de Myddleton holds one hamlet, which is called Bolton, by the homage and service of 11d. for Castle-ward of Lancaster, at the Nativity of John the Baptist yearly, and for sake fee 2s. 6d. yearly, at the four terms of the Nativity of the Lord, the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, the Nativity of John the Baptist, and Michaelmas, by the service of the twelfth part of one knight's fee.

LITTLE BOLTON: Richard de Bolton holds Little Bolton by thanage, by the services of 16s. yearly.

BLACKROD: Roger de Bradshaw holds Blackrode of the Earl of Ferrars for one carve of land, by the service of 20s. yearly. John, son of Elias Tonge, holds one oxgang of land there by the service of 4s. yearly for sake fee.

BREIGHTMET: Nicholas Devias holds the moiety of the hamlet of Brightmede, which is half the vill of Bolton, by the homage the service of 4s. yearly for Castleward of Lancaster, at the term of St. Martin in winter, and 1s. 3d. for sake fee yearly at the four said terms, and for the sixteenth part of one knight's fee. Robert de Holland the other part of the same hamlet by the homage and service of 4s. yearly for Castleward at Lancaster, at the term of St. Martin, and 20s. for sake fee at the four said terms for one knight's fee.

EDGEWORTH: Henry Trafford holds two oxgangs of land in Eggeworth by the service of 7s. 4d. yearly for all. William Radcliff holds half a carve in Eggeworth by the service of 2s. 7d.

HULTON: Richard Hulton holds half a carve in Hulton by the service of 6s. 7d.

RIVINGTON: Roger Pilkington holds the seventh part of the village of Rovington by the service of 8s. 10d. yearly at the Nativity, Easter, the Nativity of John Baptist, and Michaelmas.

Let us now revert to the Dukedom of Lancaster. This honor, after the death of Henry the first duke (1361), passed to John of Gaunt, whose defence of John Wickliffe, the great

reformer, and other disaffections to public opinions, added to his want of national favour and success, notwithstanding his great zeal in the welfare of his country. However, his honours were multiplied, and Lancaster was made a County Palatine. This enabled the duke to exercise regal powers. It was during the time of John of Gaunt's son, Henry of Bolingbroke—and principally by his ambition to wrest the crown of England from his royal cousin—that the seed was sown for the lamentable war between the rival houses of Lancaster and York. Henry was successful in dethroning King Richard II., and thereupon was proclaimed Henry IV., King of England.

In 45 Edward III. (1371), the Manor of Bolton-Super-Moram, and other lands were found in the possession of William de Ferrers, of Groby, and Margaret his wife, who was the daughter of Henry de Percy, and relict of Robert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus.

On the 28th April, in the 35 Edward III. (1361) an Inquisition *post mortem* was taken at Lancaster touching the knights' fees, &c., of which Henry, late Duke of Lancaster, died seized. A copy of this Inquisition is preserved in the Public Record Office. The witnesses say :—

That John La Warre and William le Botiller, of Werington, knight, and their tenants, held of the said Duke ix knights' fees, the third part and the twenty-fourth part of one knight's fee, in the vills of Halgh, Little Bolton, and Brightmet, &c., which are of the Honour of Tuttlebury, &c. [*And they say that the same Duke died on the Tuesday (23rd March) next before the Feast of the Anunciation of the Blessed Mary last past. And that Blanche, daughter of the aforesaid Duke, of the age of xvj† years and more, whom John, Earl of Richmond took to wife, and Matilda, daughter of the same duke and sister of the same Blanche, of the age of xxvj† years and more, whom William, Duke of Holland took to wife, are the next heirs of the same Duke Henry, &c.]

The Public Record Office also furnishes this information in an Inquisition *post mortem* in relation to this lord of Bolton Manor and his interest in the town. The document abstracted reads :—

Assignment of dower to Margaret, who was the wife of William de Ferrers, of Groby of Chorlton, Chorley, and Bolton-in-the-Moors, made by William de Chorley, Escheator of the Lord the King in the County of Lancaster, &c., in the presence of Adam de B. . . ne, attorney of Lucas de Ponynges, &c., 20th of June [45 Edward III. (1371)]. To the same Margaret one house, in which Thomas de Ardern, knight, used to live, &c., in Chorley. In Bolton-super-Moras they assign also to the same Margaret a rent of 3s., and the third part of a farthing which divers tenants render by the year, namely. . . . . Adam, son of John de Leu're, for three burgages by the year, 3s. Also to the same Margaret the third part of a fourth part and the third part of two parts of the aforesaid fourth part of a certain small moss in Bolton towards the east, which is now worth nothing by the year. Also the third part of a fourth part and a third part of two parts of the aforesaid fourth part of the tolls of Bolton, which third part is worth by the year 8½d.

*The part in brackets is taken from the Devon Inquisition.

†There is a discrepancy in these ages, but in all probability the first-named—xvj—is the correct one.

CHAPTER IX.

THE MANOR OF BOLTON.

Bolton Manor in Possession of the Pilkingtons—The Pilkingtons—The Harringtons—Thomas, Lord Stanley—The Stanleys lords of the Manor: The Deed of Conveyance—Value of Bolton Market "Toule" in the Fifteenth Century—Owners of Bolton Manor—Manor of Little Bolton—The Bothelton (or Bolton) Family—The Manor House—Armorial Bearings of the Boltons—An "Old link" in the Parish Church—The "Bolton Lads": Their Gallantry at Flodden Field—Sir Richard Assheton—Later Owners of Little Bolton Manor—The Tippings.

ROM the Ferrers the Manor of Bolton passed by marriage to the Pilkingtons—one of the most powerful and distinguished families of that period, not only of Lancashire, but of the whole country.

Leonard Pilkington, lord of the Manors of Bury, Bolton, Pilkington, and several others, is said to have been the first nobleman of this family. Next came Alexander Pilkington, who owned Rivington, and gave his son that township. Sir Roger, the eldest son of Alexander, was Lord of Bury Manor and High Sheriff of the

County four times during the reign of Edward IV. He died in 1497. Sir Thomas Pilkington, styled "the Good Lord of Bury," was the next lord of Bolton. No fewer than three members of the Pilkington family married into that of the Harringtons, of Hornby Castle; the last being the marriage of Sir Thomas Pilkington to Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Richard Harrington, and relict of Sir Christopher Hulton, of Farnworth. Hence a portion of the Manor of Bolton passed into the hands of the Harringtons, which, however, through the attainder of Sir James Harrington in the time of Henry VII., for his affection to the cause of Richard III., became the property of the Stanleys. Sir Thomas Pilkington—Sheriff of Lancashire several times between 1463 and 1487—also espoused the losing cause of Richard III. in the Wars of the Roses. He fought at the memorable battle of Bosworth, in 1485, but escaped with his life until the Yorkist rebellion two years later, when he was killed during an encounter with the Lancastrians at Stoke. He likewise forfeited his lands in Lancashire because of his loyalty to Richard III. They were all conferred upon Thomas Lord Stanley. Of him it is recorded that he placed on Henry VII.'s head, in the presence of his successful army, the golden circlet which Richard III. had worn over his helmet. The circlet had been found hanging in a hawthorn bush upon Bosworth Field*

This memorable and decisive battle was fought on the 22nd August, 1485, resulting in the death of Richard and the loss of his cause. Henry Tudor was, therefore, immediately crowned as Henry VII., and one of his first acts was to show his gratitude for the military services of the Stanleys—to whom he owed his success. On the 17th September, of the same year, the King granted to Thomas Lord Stanley, and his son Sir George (Lord Strange), all the Manor of Bolton and other lands. The deed of conveyance is of uncommon interest and at the same time important in connection with the History of Bolton, as showing in a most marked manner the bravery of the ancestors of a family who have for generations held this Manor, or at least a portion thereof, and who have for a still longer period shown

*Sir Thomas Gaspey's edition of *Hume and Smollett's History of England* differs in the Christian name of the gallant Stanley. It says :—"Sir William Stanley brought a crown of ornaments which Richard wore in battle, and which had been found among the spoils, and he put it on the head of the victor." This William was brother to Thomas Lord Stanley, and resided at Holt Castle, but there is little probability in the statement that it was he who did the great act of loyalty just recorded, as may be surmised by the grant of lands by Henry VII. to Lord Thomas.

their loyalty to king and country, not only on the battlefield but in the Church and in the Senate. This document is still preserved among the Patent Rolls in the Public Record Office, and is here fully extracted in English :—

The King, to all to whom these presents come, greeting. Know ye that on account of the singular and faithful services which our well-beloved Sir Thomas Stanley, knight (Lord Stanley), and Sir George Stanley, knight (Lord le Strange), have rendered to us, as well in favouring our title, and the title of our father and brother to the Crown of this kingdom of England, as in helping in the suppression and termination of the false and malicious rebellion, which within the same kingdom was fostered and sustained, and for the good and faithful service to us and our heirs, the Kings of England, rendered by the same Thomas and George and their heirs, in the defence of the kingdom against traitors and rebels, both now and in the future, we give, concede, and by these presents grant to the same Thomas and George, to the value of a thousand marks annually, beyond the lands of Chester and manor and lordship of Hope and Hopedale, in the Welsh Marches, adjacent to the county of Chester, with appurtenances ; the manor, lordship, and town of Northwich, with the pasture of Overmershe, and appurtenances, in the county of Chester ; the manor and lordship of Westlideford, Blakenden, Haleshertne (otherwise called Haselheare), with appurtenances, in the county of Somerset ; Bereford St. Martin, in the county of Wilts ; Ardington, in the county of Berks ; Steventon, Knottyng, Collerden, and Cotton, in the county of Bedford ; all the lands in Blomeham, in the same county, which were formerly held by Roger Tocotis ; the manor and lordship of Great Gaddesden, in the county of Hertford ; the castle, manor, lordship, and soke of Kymbalton, with the manors of Swineshed, Hardewyke, in the county of Hunts ; and the lordship of Kymbalton ; and certain messuages, lands, and rents in Macclesfield, in the county of Chester, which belonged to Henry, late Duke of Buckingham, or of any other for his use ; also the manors of Chorley and BOLTON, with the appurtenances, in the county of Lancaster, and also lands and tenements in BRIGHTMEDE, in the same county ; also all that messuage and other lands and tenements which were the property of Sir Robert Willoughby, knight, or of any other for his own use in the parish of St. Peter, next Powle Wharf, in the city of London, or elsewhere, within the said city. All of which lands, tenements, messuages, meadows, pastures, woods, waters, mills, gardens, rents, and dovecots, and to be in the free liberty of frankpledge ; also the knight's fee of the advocacy and patronage of the abbey church and hospital vestry and chapel of Canterbury, and other ecclesiastical benefices, together with the right to the goods and chattels of felons and fugitives, and the chattels of all outlaws and others attainted for felony ; and also all liberties, franchises, commodities, emoluments, and customs whatsoever to the aforesaid castles, manors, lordships, lands. tenements, and other the premises have of old appertained ; to hold the said castles, manors, lands, and the tenements and other the premises as fully and freely as any person or persons have before these times held them ; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the said premises to the aforesaid Thomas Stanley* and George Stanley†, and the heirs male of the body of the said Thomas Stanley, lawfully begotten, of us and our heirs by military service ; Paying fifty pounds annually at the Feasts of Easter and St. Michael the Archangel, by equal portions. . . . Witness the King at Nottingham, the 17th September.

Thus, after the Pilkingtons, the Stanleys were found in possession of the Manor of Bolton. It is worthy of note that the property has passed through the hands of no less than fifteen Earls of Derby.

Among a miscellaneous batch of memoranda in the Platt archives is a list of chief rents in Bolton, formerly the estate of the late Earl of Derby, but which has now changed

* He was the first Earl of Derby, and in his will dated 28th July, 1504, he is styled "Thomas, Earl of Derby, Lord Stanley, Lord of Man, and Great Constable of England." For his second wife he married Margaret, widow of Edmund, Earl of Richmond, and mother of Henry VII.

† He received the honour of knighthood for bathing with Prince Edward (son of Edward IV.), and during the reign of Henry VII. was vested with many other military and civil degrees.

hands. It is stated that "the toule of Bolton market is used to bee let for the yeare at 10s."*

In the third year of King William III.'s reign (1691), Bolton Manor was held by the Right Hon. William George, Earl of Derby, the Right Worshipful Sir John Bridgeman, Baronet; Thomas Lever, Esq., and Robert Thropp, gent., all of whom, according to the lease of the Bolton Lectureship Church Estate, "were chief lords and owners of the Manor and seizen of Bolton-le-Moors." The Manor is still held by separate lords, the Earls of Derby and Bradford each holding a fourth part.

The Manor of Little Bolton seems to have been distinct in very early times from the Manor of Great Bolton—or Bolton proper—yet both are included in the same parish.

The Boltons are found to be the earliest family on record in possession of Little Bolton Manor.

In the *Testa de Nevill*, which is a valuable collection of ancient records made by authority in the reign of Henry III. and Edward I., in the 13th century, and which was printed at the expense of the Government in 1800, several notices are to be found of lands held by the Bolton family in Little Bolton and Tonge, which were probably portions of the manorial estates.

Thus "the wife of Gamill de Boelton held a lease or leases of the gift of the King, 'de *danacoe* ? R,' val. III. col. p. ann."

"William de Bothelton held a bovate of land in chief of our lord the king in fee-farm, his heir is the wardship of our lord the king."

"Roger de Bothelton held one carucate of land of the heir of Ranulphs Fitz-Roger, by the service of the 12th part of a knight's fee."

This Ranulph held four carucates in chief of the King by paying ten shillings a year and finding a judger for the baronial court. His heir was in wardship of Eustace de Moreton for the King.

"Cann de Bothelton, who is the wardship of our lord the king, and Annaga and Thom and Gilbtm and Sims held two carucates and a half of land in Bolton, and family paid 40s. with service, &c."

In Birch's Manuscripts (a Feodarium drawn up in the time of Henry, Duke of Lancaster), Roger de Myddleton is said

*Chetham Society Pub., Vol. xlviii., p. 50.

to have held a hamlet, which was called Bolton, by homage and service of elevenpence for ward of Lancaster Castle, to be rendered yearly at the Feast of St. John the Baptist, and 2s. 6d. per annum for sake-fee at the four terms of the year by the service of the twelfth part of one knight's fee; and in the same record Richard de Bolton is said, in the reign of Edward III. (1327-1376), to have held Little Bolton in thanage by the service of 16s. per annum. In the 20 Henry VIII., Roger de Bolton was seized of the same, and is recorded to have held of our lord the Duke of Lancaster the sixteenth part of one knight's fee in Little Bolton in Salford, which his ancestors formerly held of the Earl of Ferrers as of the King.

In 20 Hen. VII. (1504-5), Roger de Bolton was seized of this manor.*

In 2 Jas. I. (1604), Robert de Bolton had messuages and lands in Little Bolton.†

The Boltons are thus proved to have been a very ancient family, probably taking their name from the place of their birth. They resided in the Manor House, on the site of the present Little Bolton Hall, a fine old postern painted mansion, restored at great cost by the late Stephen Blair, Esq., on the banks of the Tonge. Galfrid de Bolton lived here in the time of Richard III. (1484). The armorial bearings of the family (probably a rebus on the name) are a bolt, or feathered arrow, piercing a barrel or tun. Ricus de Bolton, in 15 Hen. VII., bore for his arms three tuns pierced with arrows. Prior Bolton, of the Church of the Priory of St. Bartholomew the Great in West Smithfield, in London, and who is said to have been a member of this ancient family, had a bolt through a tun carved in that church for his arms, which fixes the date of certain alterations made therein in the year 1529. The support of one of the chancel beams also in the Bolton Old Parish Church (when the edifice was taken down for the rebuilding) was found to terminate in a rude carving of like description. There was something appropriate, moreover, in the device, since the archers of Bolton, or "the Bolton Lads" as they were called, were famous in early times for their skill in the use of the bow and arrow. Their praises were long sung in connection with the Battle of Flodden Field, under Sir Edward

* *Duchy Records, vol.* 1, *num.* 14. † *Ibid, vol.* 19, *num.* 16.

Stanley, in September, 1513, when the Scotch were utterly routed, and their King (James IV.) was slain. The following verses are selected from the ballad* because of their local interest:—

Most lively lads in Lonsdale bred,
With weapons of unwieldly weight;
All such as Tatham fells had fled,
Went under Stanley's streamer bright.

From Bowland, billmen bold were boun
With such as Bottom-banks did hide;
From Wharemore up to Whittington,
And all to Wenning water side;

From Silverdale to Kent-sand side,
Whose soil is sown with cockle shells:
From Cartmel eke, and Connyside,
With fellows fierce from Furness-fells;

From Warton unto Warrington,
From Wigan unto Wyersdale,
From Wedicar to Waddington,
From Old Ribchester to Rochdale;

From Poulton and Preston, with pikes,
They with the Stanley stout forth went;
From Pemberton and Pilling dikes,
For battle billmen both were bent;

With fellows fresh, and fierce in fights,
Which Horton fields turned out in scores;
With lusty lads—Liver and Lights—
From Blackburn and Bolton-i'th'-Moors.

This was not the only effusion laudating the gallantry of the Lancashire contingent under Stanley, for, some two centuries later than the date of the battle—*i.e.* 1701—the following inscription might be seen engraved upon a stone in the wall enclosing the graveyard of the Bolton Parish Church:—

The bolt shot well I ween,
From arablast† of yew treen green;
Many nobles prostrate lay
At glorious Flodden Field.

Other Lancashire towns were also called upon to participate in the maintenance of the English Crown against the aggrandisement of James IV. of Scotland. Sir Richard Assheton, knt., of Middleton, provided a number of bowmen for this pur-

* This ballad, which contains in all 574 stanzas of four lines, written in alliterative metre, was printed at Preston in 1773, with this title page:—"The Battle of Flodden Field; which was fought between the English, under the Earl of Surrey (In the Absence of King Henry VIII.), and The Scots, under their valiant King James IV., who was slain on the Field of Battle, In the year 1513. An heroic Poem In nine Fits or Parts Collected from antient manuscripts. By Joseph Benson, Philomath." The Earl of Surrey was the lieutenant-general of the northern counties, and the nobility and gentry, with their retainers, readily responded to his summons. Hence Sir Edward Stanley's muster in the town and district of Bolton.

† Mr. G. J. French (jun.) in his "Short History of the Volunteer Movement in Bolton," transposes the spelling of this word into "arbalist," meaning a "cross-bow."

pose, and to their memories a stained glass window was placed by Sir Richard and some of his retainers in the Parish Church (St. Leonard's) of Middleton. Portions of this memorial still exist in the church, where the armour worn by Sir Richard during this battle was also by him hung up. The window when perfect gave a representation of Sir Richard and Lady Assheton, with the chaplain and attendant, and several retainers of the knight, whose names are inscribed. The retainers are attired in blue and carry bows and arrows. The exact date of the window is uncertain, but it is supposed to have been fitted about two years after the battle. William Langton, in his editorial notes of the *Visitation of Lancashire, &c.*, A.D. 1533, published by the *Chetham Society*, states that Sir Ralph Assheton was only about 32 years old when he commanded at Flodden Field.

As already shown, the Manor of Little Bolton was held until the 17th century by the Boltons.

In 1700 it was settled by Thomas Marsden, of Bolton, gentleman, on his wife Sarah, daughter of William Croxton, Esq., being afterwards sold, as directed by his will, to Mr. John Moss, of Manchester, woollen draper, in 1716. This Mr. Moss, by his will dated 14th April, 1729, devised the Manor to his eldest son, John (except the tithes of corn in Little Bolton and Tonge), which he thereby gave in trust for the minister of the Chapel (All Saints' Church) in Little Bolton, for the time being for ever. John, the son, settled the same in 1733 on his wife Mary, daughter of Jeremiah Bower, of Manchester. The issue of this marriage was one son, James Moss, who in 1764 settled the Manor on his wife, Appylina, daughter of James Bayley, Esq., of Manchester. Dying intestate and without issue, Mr. Moss's estates descended to his cousin-german and heir at law, Jno. Gartside, Esq., of Manchester. Mr. Gartside married Catherine, daughter of Philip Howard, Esq., of Corby Castle, in the county of Cumberland, and by indenture dated 12th May, 1777, settled on her a jointure secured on this Manor. By will dated 7th July, 1817, and proved at Chester 10th Sept. following, he devised this Manor and other estates to his nephew, Thos. Tipping, Esq., who by his will, dated 2nd October, 1844, settled the same on trustees for the use of his son Edmund Joseph Tipping, Esq., of Davenport Hall, in the county of Chester, who is the father of the present Manorial owners.*

Notitia Cestriensis, Vol. II., part I. p. 6. Chtm. Soc. Pub.

CHAPTER X.

THE NAME "BOLTON."

Bolton a place of Great Antiquity—Ecclesiastical Boundary—Origin of the name "Bolton": Opinions of Authorities—The Bodes of Saxon Kings—Was Smithells Hall ever a Royal Palace?—An Old Theory Exploded—Tradition at Fault—Bolton near Skipton—The Wells and Springs of Bothelton—Spa Fields and Silver Wells—Bodelton-cum-Dene—Derivation of "Dene" (or Deane)—"Bolton-Super-Moras" Again—Deansgate—Bolton-le-Moors—Old Bolton.

IT will have been gathered from preceding chapters that Bolton is a place of great antiquity; Baines, the County historian, has styled it an "Ancient Manor." Since the time of the Norman Conquest it has been constituted of two townships, Great Bolton and Little Bolton, the River Croal being, as stated, the dividing line. Since the year 1847 Bolton has been in the Archdeaconry and Deanery of Manchester.

Exclusive of Blackrod and Lostock (which are intersected by some parts of the adjoining parish of Deane) the parish of Bolton extends in length from south south-east to north-west a distance of eleven miles, and in breadth from west to east nine miles.

The origin of the name is still involved in obscurity, not-

withstanding the repeated attempts to account for it. Many pages have been devoted to the task by Mr. Brown in his *History of Bolton*. The arguments of this writer would prove that it is of much higher antiquity than the era of the conquest by William the Norman, and that the lands of the townships (Great and Little Bolton) once belonged to a Saxon Prince or King, and were appropriated to the support of the king's "Bode" or "Boda," or that they were set apart for some specific purpose connected with the support of a royal Saxon establishment. Perhaps there is little or no reason to doubt this, for according to the early history of the north of England, we have seen that it formed a part of the Kingdom of Northumbria, whose kings claimed all the land in their respective domains.

In explanation of his assertion Mr. Brown says "*Bod* implies Gothic; *Jussum, mandatum:* Latin implies *command, appointment,*" and, he argues, a high and a solemn command or injunction is meant. Whatever that special "command" may have been in relation to the town by such Saxon King or potentate, unfortunately, we know not; neither do there remain any records to enlighten us. Therefore, one or two writers of the present century have endeavoured to fill up the vacuum in history, with a pretty, but none the less unreliable story, which they wished their readers to accept as an indisputable fact. Mr. Brown inclines to the belief that it belonged to the "Bode" of a Frisian Saxon Court, perhaps ere their conversion to Christianity. At the same time he scouts the theory of Smithells Hall having ever been a Royal Palace, and puts an entirely new construction on the subject. He argues, as before stated, in favour of Bolton at one time being the place of a Frisian Saxon Court, if not of royal residence, and the adjacent district of Smithells as the abiding-place of the "Smith of the Royal Palace." Hence the possibility of the derivation of its name from the land allotted in very remote ages to the Royal smith. Quoting from Brown on the subject:—"The voice of tradition has loudly proclaimed that *Smithells*, in the township of Halliwell and parish of Bolton,* was once the site of a royal Saxon palace: the *forged* date 680, placed over the doorway of the northern wing of the quadrangle, seems to countenance the illusion. It is probable enough there was a moated dwelling on the spot as

*Both Halliwell and Smithells are in the parish of "Deane."

early, or even earlier than the date in question; certainly not a *stone* residence, nor would its date be inscribed in *Arabic* numerals. Smithells, as the allotted land and official residence of the *Smith* of a Saxon palace in the vicinity, would almost justify the tradition of its ancient dignity. We do not say it was so, but deem it within the pale of probabilities." Mr. P. A. Whittle, who wrote a *History of Bolton* in 1855, is still more sanguine on the question, going so far as to say that, "in 679, Ella, King of Deira, had his residence at the royal palace of Smedhill, near Boltune-super-Moras, in the wilds of the south side of Belisamia." Again, he says: "The beautiful daughter of Ella married Adelfrid, king of Bernicia. Ella at that time had fixed his royal palace at Smedhill, in the wilds—called Boltune-super-Moras, south of Belisamia (this was the river Ribble, which was called Belisamia, the beautiful river)." For the strength of this assertion Mr. Whittle refers us to Sir Francis Palgrave. Before the year 1857 Sir Francis Palgrave wrote or edited no less than ten distinct works, but to which of these it was Whittle's intention to refer us cannot be said. He simply says that "Palgrave" must be consulted if we want proof. However, a sincere desire to corroborate Mr. Whittle's reference led to a careful examination of Palgrave's *History of the Anglo-Saxons*, a book of 445 pages, published in 1831, as being the most likely for success. All to no purpose. Other works of his were likewise consulted with the same result.

A few words at this point will suffice to show the unreliability of Whittle's statement. Whittle says that King Ella resided at Smithells in 679. Now this ruler founded Deira in 547—soon after the beginning of his reign; while his son Edwin succeeded him in 617. How is it possible to make the two statements agree? Granting it to be a printer's error for 579*—which would then be in King Ella's lifetime—there is no proof forthcoming. Whittle's statement has led astray still more recent writers.

In the year 1787 an account of Smithells Hall was published from the press of Benjamin Jackson, of Bolton. The production was signed "W.D." This little work contains another version of the Smithells Hall romance. It reads:—"There is a tradition that King Egbert founded this place, and here kept his

*The date given in Mr. James Clegg's *Annals of Bolton*, 1888, p. 39.

court, but as I find no trace of this in history I cannot allow it; especially as from the order of Egbert's conquests it is natural to imagine his court would be fixed in a more southerly part of the kingdom." Therefore it will be seen that three-quarters of a century before Whittle's time there was a discredited tradition regarding the "Royal Court at Smithells," not attributed to King Ella but to King Egbert, who did not live for nearly 300 years after Ella. We know, however, that tradition loses nothing by age and repetition, and that it should always be accepted with caution.

Directing our attention for a short space to Bolton, near Skipton, Yorkshire, it will not be denied that the more ancient records of that town—like those of Bolton-le-Sands and Bolton in Westmorland—have often been mistaken for Bolton-le-Moors, and *vice versa*. From the *History of Skipton*, by Mr. W. Dawson, published in 1882, we learn that in the late Saxon times Bolton, near Skipton, was known as "Bodeltone," which Manor and lands formed part of Earl Edwin's possessions, and were among the last to remain in the hands of their Saxon owners. At this period, Bolton near Skipton is said to have been a principal seat of Earl Edwin. On Robert de Romille becoming possessed of the honour and fee of Skipton at the Norman Conquest, the residence at Bolton was discarded by him as inadequate for a place of defence, whereupon he made Skipton the head of his barony. It is very probable that the Bolton near Skipton and Bolton-le-Moors have been in this instance confounded, and that by lapse of time tradition has converted the residence of Earl Edwin to that of King Ella, father of Prince Edwin of Deira.

Returning to the derivation of the name of our town, some would have it from the Celtic "Bol," a contra, or "Bodel," a residence; and "ton," a bog, meaning a place or residence in a bog. The late Gilbert J. French, Esq., F.S.A., was of opinion that neither of these derivations was the true one, but that the name was originally "Both-well-town," contracted into "Botheton," "Bodleton," "Bolton," and that it was so called from the remarkable wells or springs of water for which in earlier times it was celebrated, viz., the Spa-well and the Silver-well,* which were situated at extreme ends of the town, and

* So called from the clear and sparkling appearance of its waters,

which are still existing. The Spa Road and Silverwell Street of to-day indicate the locality of these two wells.

It is certain that Bolton was formerly celebrated for its waters. A writer in the early part of this century thus describes the place :—"Bolton enjoys a healthy situation, and abounds with springs of the finest water, some of which have been highly celebrated for their medicinal virtues. One which has been particularly noticed in Spa-fields, at the west end of the town, is a strong chalybeate water, in which the iron is kept in a state of suspension by carbonic acid, which is constantly escaping from the well in large bubbles. An infusion of nut-galls gives the water a bright deep claret colour. When drunk it lays light upon the stomach, and is an excellent tonic."

As the question of Bolton being mentioned in Domesday Book*—1080—1086—has long been a contentious matter, a few remarks on the subject may be acceptable. Baines says "the ancient Saxon orthography of this place is Boltune or Bothel-tun." Whittle says the word Bolton "is of Saxon origin, and was termed Bolton-super-Moras." Harrison is still more lucid and states that "Bodelton-cum-Deane was a thorp existing during the Saxon era—deriving its meaning from lands appropriated to Corls, or persons of distinction."

Turning our attention to the last page of Domesday Book, under the heading "*Int. Ripa et Mersha Evrvicscire, Terra Regis, West Reding,*" we find the following entry :—"In Bodetun VI. car; in Dene I. car." This interesting item means that there were six carucates† of land in Bolton to be taxed by the King, whilst in Deane only one carucate was to be so dealt with.

In asking does this Domesday Book entry refer to Bolton-le-Moors, we must seek for the answer in the writings of those who, we may suppose, have studied the question. Baines, in his History would have it understood not to be the case, preferring to credit "Bolton with Urswick," about three miles from Ulverston, and in the Hundred of Lonsdale, with the cognizance. Brown goes so far as to recognise that "in Domesday Book, *sub titulo evricsire,* a parish or vill called Bodelton is entered, coupled with Dene;" and proceeds to explain that "as Deyne, Dean, Dune, Duyne, in almost all parts of the island, signified waste, common, unappropriated lands, the proximity of Dean, Dean

*The original is preserved in the Public Record Office, London.
†A "Carucate" was as much land as could be worked with one plough—perhaps about 100 acres.

Church, Smithells Dean, in the vicinity of Bolton-le-Moors, 'Bodelton' cannot be positively adopted or identified with this important town. But in the earliest records that have been brought to light in the archives of the Duchy Courts of Lancashire, as the same term, spelt in the same manner, appears to have signified Bolton, it is very probable the term applied to certain lands appropriated either to the *Bode* of a royal palace, or to the support of the kingly dignity as a portion of the Boedel or Bodel set apart for that purpose." Another writer in 1873* says that Bolton was "too insignificant to find a place in Domesday Book."

Certainly Baines has a reason for his supposition, inasmuch as that in Domesday the entry of Bolton is immediately preceded by "Ulurestun," *i.e.*, Ulverston. It is also noticeable in the survey that Manchester and Salford are included under the head of Cestre-Seire (Cheshire), whilst Bolton—the very next town of note—is (probably inadvertently or promiscuously) classed with the districts of Yorkshire.

On the other hand the absence of regularity in the later part of the great survey is suggestive of surveys taken out of the regular course, or in collation of the information obtained by the Commissioners. There appears to be little doubt in the minds of more modern writers as to the certainty of the Domesday record being identical with, and referring to, the town of Bolton-le-Moors; and in support of this it is noticeable that Deane is repeatedly an adjunct to the word "Bolton" in ancient documents dating from the Norman times; no doubt because of their close geographical position to each other. "Bodelton-cum-Dean" is a frequently occurring compound to distinguish Bolton-le-Moors from its numerous namesakes in the north of England.

It is believed that at the time of the taking of the Norman survey, Deane was of such importance to Bolton as to create the almost invariable distinction named. We are informed† that the derivation of the word "Dene," or, as now spelt, "Dean" and "Deane," limits the word as referring to a particular kind of valley or dale, enclosed on both sides with hills, and as often exhibiting woods and streams of water convenient for the use of cattle. The same writer gives a very clear and feasible illustra-

* Account of the Opening of the Bolton Town Hall by the Prince of Wales, 1873.

†Hibbert-Ware's *History of the Ancient Parish Church of Manchester*,

tion of the derivation of the ancient highway of "Deansgate" in Bolton, *i.e.* :—"There is a Denesgate in the populous town of Bolton-le-Moors, where certainly no Rural Dean is ever recorded to have sojourned ; while there is not far from the town a valley or dene, to which the Denesgate of Bolton leads."*

Again, another very early compound name of the town was "Bolton-super-Moras," which alone should suffice to eradicate any still existing doubt. The word "Moras" alone indicates "Dene," whence the latter word is derived, for we are informed that "Dene" means "lands that are waste, moras, moors, commons, marshes, bogs." Thus it is clear that Bolton has from time immemorial been associated with Dean in most if not all the ancient deeds and charters relative thereto. Hence there need be no wonder why the "Bodelton" and the "Dene" of Domesday are now claimed as referring to the town of Bolton-le-Moors and the neighbouring parish of Deane.

The name of the town has been variously written as years have rolled by. Commencing with Bodetun, and proceeding with Bodelton, Bothelton, Botheltun, Bodleton, Bodeltown, Bothel-tun-le-Moors, Bowelton, Boltune, Bowlton, Boulton, Bolton-super-Moras, Bolton-super-Moram, Bolton-upon-Moore, Bolton-in-ye-Moores, Bolton-in-the-Moors, Bolton-le-Moors, and it is now by Parliamentary enactment known as "Bolton," without any suffix whatever. When named "Bolton-le-Moors" it was distinguished from the numerous other Boltons in the county—Bolton-le-Sands, as well as the Boltons in Yorkshire and Westmorland—and the suffix plainly described its situation as among the surrounding moorlands, which were formerly wild, almost uninhabited, and infested with wolves and wild boars. There are no less than thirteen places in England named "Bolton;" all of which are, singularly enough, in the north, viz. : One each in Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmorland ; two in Lancashire, and eight in Yorkshire. By this it is conclusive that the name of our town (minus the suffix) is not uncommon, although Bolton-le-Moors is by far the most important of its namesakes.

How truthfully the country was described as "the Wilds, near Boltune-super-Moras," may be gathered from a manuscript account of Furness Abbey, copied by Dugdale in his *Monasticon*,

*This valley is now best known as "Deane Clough."

having reference to the "district lying in and near Tottington, the Moras at Bolton, and other adjacent parts before the Conquest." It describes the district as "almost inaccessible, infested by a great number of wolves, and its inhabitants so thinly scattered, uncivilized, and ungovernable that the Saxon Bishops abstained from the exercise of ordinary ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the churches committed to their care, while the Rectors usurped the title of Deans to be lords of the lands and villas in which churches were situated, and held them as their own inheritance."

Nothing more can be said of when or how the town received its ever-changing name, but it may be taken as a fact that the place—Bolton—gave the name to one of the resident families, and that it was not, as has been suggested by other writers, the family who gave the name to the town or district.

Of the ancient and mediæval history of Bolton few records are known to be extant. We are alike ignorant of its geometrical formation and its extent prior to the eleventh or twelfth century, and it would be entirely useless to attempt to give a true delineation of the village as it then existed. There is no doubt that Bolton of eight hundred years ago would be almost void of architectural arrangement. Its low buildings of thatch would be meagre and sparsely scattered, with acres of land on every side in a state of semi-fertilisation, or more probably not cultivated at all. To finish this simple picture it may be supposed that the surrounding moors acted in a measure as a boundary to the rude settlement. There is no doubt that at the period in question Bolton was an obscure place compared with Manchester; on the other hand, it possessed a greater population than many other neighbouring villages, or its name would not so often appear before those of adjacent manors or townships in the various records handed down to us. Of our local concerns at the period under consideration little has hitherto been written, and not much additional material has come to light in late years.

CHAPTER XI.

LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY: THE MIDDLE AGES.

First Missionaries in Bodelton—The Christians of Northumbria—Ecclesiastical Changes—Formation of Chester Diocese—Clergy of Lancashire and Cheshire "Eased of their Long Journeys"—Bolton a Prebend—Is Bolton an "Ancient Parish?"—"First Fruits" and "Tenths"—Bolton said to be omitted from an old "Valor"—Discovery of Important Documents—Ancient Prebendary Stalls—Bishop Weseham—Status of Incumbency—Bishop Francis Gastrell—A Rare Transcript—Proof of Antiquity.

HE foregoing account of the early state, extent, situation, and ownership of the Manor of Bolton, supplemented by remarks on the probable derivation of its name, brings us to a point in the annals of the town to admit of next recording much that has presented itself during many years of literary and archæological research for material, or ground-work, upon which to write a history of the late Old Parish Church of Bolton and its predecessors. The numerous and varied sources whence this fragmentary information is derived make it almost impossible to quote every authority. However, where and when this can be done, such guidance to the reader shall be presented.

Perhaps by no writer hitherto has so extensive a collection been made of information bearing on past events relating to Bolton, its Parish Church, and general associations—governmental and political, as well as social and ecclesiastical—with their almost inseparable variations of strife and peace, dissent, and partisanship.

The importance and originality of these data must be the apology for whatever prominence may be given to this portion of Bolton's history. Of course it need not be argued that the history of a Parish Church is virtually the history of its parish or town. This must be an acknowledged fact. Poor and meagre would be the records of centuries ago (of our own town, for instance,) if it were not for that which emanated from, or appertained to, the predecessors of our stately Mother Church of Bolton. Indeed, without such fragments, local history would be grievously incomplete. At the same time, other items will be introduced as the exigencies of the case demand, and the interest of the reader will, it is hoped, be thereby maintained.

The exact date of the erection of the first Church in Bolton is unknown. Whether a Druids' Temple or Circle preceded such Church is also an unravelled mystery. All that can be surmised with any degree of likelihood is that Lancashire, a part of the kingdom of Northumbria, was brought under the influence of the first British Christian Church missionaries in the middle or latter part of the sixth century. Certainly it is very probable that during the pilgrimages of these holy men the little village of Bodelton did not remain unvisited. For, strong as the Church may have been in the southern portions of the Saxon Heptarchy, Northumbria and Mercia (Wales) were closely allied with the holy men of the Hebrides.

Positive proof is also wanting to show when the followers of St. Columba first preached to the heathens of this neighbourhood, or when the first ray of Christianity shed its light upon the minds of our rude forefathers. Whether St. Augustine ever travelled in this neighbourhood is also uncertain—though history answers negatively. However, there need be no doubt that the worshippers in Bodelton were as sturdy opponents of the centralisation of Rome as their brethren in other parts of Northumbria and Wales. Thus it has been claimed that this district was a distinct atom in the nation, when Saxons and

Danes struggled for its mastery, and when their respective kings gave place to a still more powerful conqueror—William the Norman. Even then the kingdom wherein Bolton was embraced refused to entirely surrender, not only its automatic government, but the religion which had therein been held for so many centuries. We are informed that it was not until the reign of Henry I. that the whole of the Christians in the kingdom of Northumbria were subdued to the religion of the Roman Pontiff, as first preached in England by St. Augustine and his assistant missionaries.

Bolton, with its neighbourhood, was originally in the Diocese of York, of which Paulinus was the first Archbishop. The Bishops of Mercia had their seat at Lichfield so early as the year 656—Diuma being the first. Subsequently (669) the episcopal See of Lichfield was created, and St. Chad became its first Bishop. When Northumbria had fallen under the domination of the West Saxons, the tract of land afterwards described as "between the Ribble and the Mersey" (including Bolton) became dissevered from the Diocese of York, and was annexed to that of Lichfield.

The *Annales Cestrienses*, which is a chronicle of the Abbey of St. Werburg at Chester, contains the following note relating to the foundation of a Collegiate Church near Chester:—"689.—In the year of our Lord six hundred and eighty-nine, Ethelred, King of the Mercians, the uncle of Saint Werburg, with the assistance of Wilfric, Bishop of Chester, as Giraldus relates, founded a Collegiate Church in the suburbs of Chester in honour of Saint John the Baptist." This is particularly interesting, especially to those who take it for granted that the *first* ecclesiastic who was known and styled Bishop of Chester was created in Henry VIII.'s time. In 747 the see of Lichfield was made archiepiscopal. In the reign of Egfrid the mandate was revoked, and Lichfield became annexed to the province of Canterbury. Therefore it will be seen that our district, or parish, was first comprised within the archbishopric of York, and afterwards of Canterbury; at the present time it is again in the province of York – the Roman Eboracum and Northumbrian metropolis. In 1075, Peter, Bishop of Lichfield (within which diocese Bolton was then acknowledged), removed his see to Chester as the largest city in his diocese, and was thereby known

as the Bishop of Chester; but his successor, Robert de Lymesey, in turn transferred it to Coventry in 1095, whence before 1183 it was again at Lichfield. However, the tie was effected, and the remaining Bishops were styled "of Coventry and Lichfield" until 1661, when the names were reversed as "of Lichfield and Coventry." In 1840 another change was made, when the name "Coventry" was withdrawn, and the see from that date to the present time is simply "of Lichfield." When this diocese was known as "of Coventry and Lichfield" it admitted of two archdeaconries—Chester and Richmond—Bolton being in the former.

In Gregson's *Fragmenta* (Appendix) the following reference is given on the early Bishopric of the see containing Bolton as a part thereof:—"This see was formerly in the diocese of the Bishop of Mercia, who had his seat at Lichfield, A.N. 656, and there remained the seat of the Bishop until about the year 1075, soon after the Conquest, when an order was made for all Bishops to remove to the greatest cities in their dioceses. Peter, then Bishop, removed his seat to Chester, but Robert de Limsey, next heir to him, and his successor, leaving Chester, removed from thence to Coventry, A.N. 1095, and it was again brought back by Roger Clinton to Lichfield in the reign of Henry I., having three seats or sees, Lichfield, Coventry, and Chester, being one Bishoprick, only commonly called of Lichfield and Coventry."

It may be observed that the religious or ecclesiastical history of Lancashire commences in the time of the Anglo-Saxons. For, searching Britton's exhaustive work, we learn that after the see of York was established the kingdom of Northumbria was speedily sub-divided into numerous dioceses. The whole of Lancashire was attached to that see. On the reduction of Northumbria, and the consolidation of the seven kingdoms into one empire, the south of Lancashire was severed from the diocese and province of York, and annexed to the province of Canterbury and diocese of Lichfield. It thus continued until the reign of Henry VIII. It was by charter dated 4th August, 1541, that the Chester diocese was formed*, which embraced all the southern part of Lancashire, including Bolton; whilst at this time the county was again re-united to the ancient and original province of York. "It was," says Hollingworth in

* This see was formed out of the Abbey of St. Werburg, founded by St. Werburga, daughter of Wulfhere, King of Mercia.—*Early Church History*, by Rev. Edward Churton, M.A.

his *Mancuniensis*, "first ordained that the new diocese of Chester should be in the province of Canterbury, but the King (Henry VIII.) finally annexed it to that of York; and because the clergy of Lancashire and Cheshire, and some other places, were much eased of their long journeys, and the bishopric had but small revenues, mortuaries were allowed to the bishop from the clergy at the death of every incumbent respectively (viz.) the best horse, apparrell, bookes, signet, &c."

The town of Bolton is admitted to be of Saxon origin, as shown in a previous chapter; but whether it was included among the parishes as first marked out in Lancashire is not stated. It was customary from very early times to the tenth century for the Bishop to personally visit each parish under his jurisdiction at least once a year, except in cases where the diocese was of too great an extent; in such a case a visit every two or three years was expected of him.

From numerous and reliable evidences it is known that Bolton-le-Moors was, at a very early period, a prebend annexed to the then archdeaconry of Chester, as shown by a Charter of Dotation. It is mentioned as so annexed before the close of the twelfth century, in the Statutes of Bishop Hugh de Nonant (set out in Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. 6, p. 1257), where it is given a place amongst the prebends. As this Hugh de Nonant was Bishop of Lichfield from 1185 to 1198,* it is clearly proved that within that period Bolton was sufficiently important, ecclesiastically, to hold a prebend in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield.

It has often been questioned whether Bolton is "an ancient parish"—*i.e.*, of a date anterior to 1291. Baines says it is not.† He describes it as "an ancient manor," but "a modern parish," thereby intimating that no Church existed here in 1291. The latter, however, is only an assumption, and his reason for thinking as described was probably because no mention is made of Bolton in that part of the *Valor* of Pope Nicholas IV. under the heading of "Arch'ns Cestr'." This book purports to give a

* He was Archdeacon of Oxford and Prior of the Carthusians. His election to the Bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield took place in 1185, but he was not consecrated until January 31st, 1187-8. He was deprived for disaffection to Richard I., but was afterwards restored on payment of 5000 marks. He died April 27th, 1198, at Bec-herluin, in Normandy, and was buried there.—*Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae.*

† See the first two editions (1834 and 1868). The third edition, published by Mr. James Croston, says that the archæological fragments discovered during the rebuilding of the present Parish Church "justify the supposition that there was an ecclesiastical foundation here in pre-Norman times."

valuation of the then existing parishes. Amongst others it contains a valuation of some fifty parishes in Lancashire, including Manchester, Bury, Eccles, Middleton, Prestwich, and Rochdale. To show the object and importance of this ecclesiastical record, a summary explanation will be necessary.

King Edward I., in arranging his expedition to the Holy Land, was assisted by certain grants or subsidies from ecclesiastical sources, levied by the king's precept. These subsidies were virtually granted to the king for six years by Pope Nicholas IV., being the "first fruits" and "tenths" of all ecclesiastical benefices, or spiritualities, in England. The taxation was begun in the year 1288, and completed in 1292. At this time there were ten parishes in the deanery of Manchester and Blackburn (comprised within the archdeaconry of Chester), and though the adjacent parishes are included in that number, Bolton is entirely omitted from mention in Manchester deanery, a circumstance likely to decide against any theory of its existence at the time of that valuation. On this account Baines not unnaturally draws the conclusion that Bolton as "an ancient parish" did not exist. It is suggested by the late Canon Raines* that the omission of Bolton from the *Valor* may be accounted for by the fact that Bolton was at that time "a prebend of Lichfield, and attached to the archdeaconry of Chester," and, consequently, was probably valued with the archdeaconry, as is found to have been actually the case at a later date.

Other writers have expressed a belief that the Church of Bolton of that period was inadvertently or designedly omitted from Pope Nicholas's *Valor*. It is not, however, always wise to accept foregone conclusions, neither to place too great reliance upon indices or chronological tables. Much information may invariably be gathered from the context of a specified work which does not appear in its chronological order. The present is a case in point. For whereas Bolton does not appear in the expected place in the great ecclesiastical taxation, it will nevertheless be found in that valuable compilation.

Some few years ago the cause of this continued misunderstanding was thoroughly investigated, and after a most assiduous and careful research, page by page, through the contents of the

* Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*, edited by Rev. Canon Raines for the Chetham Society.

Valor—irrespective of deaneries—a highly satisfactory discovery was made, one proving immediately that Bolton was more than a "modern parish." The "find" also showed that our town was *not* "inadvertently omitted" from Pope Nicholas's record, neither was it, in this instance, valued with the archdeaconry of Chester, in which portion of the work many former writers have made particular researches. Bolton was known to be in the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry prior to 1541, and it was to the portion of the work dealing with the taxing of Lichfield that recourse was thereupon made. The introduction of this division states that: "There have been for several hundred years past and still continue founded in this Cathedral a Bishop, Dean, Precentor, Chancellor, Treasurer, the four Archdeacons of Coventry, Stafford, Salop, and Derby, and twenty-seven Prebendaries, besides five Priest Vicars, seven Lay Clerks or Singing Men, eight Choristers, and other officers and servants." This led to further research in order to ascertain, if possible, the names of these Prebendaries, or the churches to which they were collated. Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum* furnished the desired information; and from some excerpts culled by that historian from the charter's statutes, and other documents of the see, was found one entitled "*Statuta et Ordinationes Ecclesiae Cathedralis Lichfeldensis*" [*temp.* Bishop Pateshull] which contained a list headed "*Quatuor Principalium Personarum Stalla Chori Lichfeldensis sunt, in Introitu Chori, et á Parte occidentali prout in sequentibus patebit.*" This was divided in two parts, and in one of them, under the sub-heading "*In Occidentali parte,*" the stall of the "Prebendary of Bolton" is recorded. This name occurs in a sub-division headed "*A Dextris,*" which contains in all the names of seven parishes. Under another sub-division seven other parishes are named, and besides these, which were situated in the western portion of the Cathedral, there were seven others on the right and six on the left in the eastern part. Thus it will be seen that the total of twenty-seven prebendary stalls have been arrived at, a number corresponding with that mentioned as anciently comprised in the foundation. Though the excerpt bears no date it contains logical evidence that, as Hugh de Pateshull* was confirmed Bishop on Christmas Day, 1239, and died on the 7th December, 1241, the period must necessarily be

* He was Treasurer of England and Canon of St. Paul's.

fixed between those two closely connected events. The discovery of the existence of the prebend of Bolton before the time of Bishop Weseham* at first appeared to upset the whole statement in the text of Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*, *i.e.*, that Bolton-le-Moors was annexed by Weseham between 1245 and 1256 to the then archdeaconry of Chester. However, "a careful analysis of Bishop Gastrell's summarised statements shows," says the discoverer of this addition to the ecclesiastical records of Bolton, given some years ago in the *Bolton Weekly Journal*, "that they afford grounds for distinguishment between a prebend emanating originally from the general revenues of the Cathedral, anterior to any special endowment, and a prebend provided by the Charter of Dotation referred to by the writer, such gift being probably the subject of Bishop Weseham's annexation in 1245-56, the real change being the raising of the status of the incumbency. As Roger de Molend (Meuland, or Meyland), otherwise Longespee,† was elected on the 31st January, 1256-7, the confirmation of the annexation referred to must have taken place not later than the latter date, that is to say, 'on the death of the incumbent.'"

By this only an approximate date of the confirmation of the annexation referred to is arrived at; but the limited period during which such must have been effected so impressed the present writer that another diligent and earnest search was prosecuted to fathom the point at issue. The result was highly satisfactory in all its details, and, as will be seen hereafter in this chapter, the exact date was at last unearthed.

One of the most reliable works on the ecclesiastical antiquities of the diocese of Chester is the *Notitia Cestriensis*, compiled by Bishop Gastrell, and edited for the Chetham Society by the Rev. F. R. Raines, M.A., F.S.A., Incumbent of Milnrow, Rochdale. The original work is preserved in the Diocesan Registry, Chester, and has been described as "the noblest document extant" on the subject of which it treats. The authenticity of its statements is indisputable, and they are a full

* He was Dean of Lincoln and Archdeacon of Rochester, being successor bishop to Bishop Pateshull, and was consecrated in 1245. After ten years' constant sickness he resigned his Bishopric on the 4th December, 1256, being granted a pension of 300 marks out of the see. He died on the 20th May, 1257.—*Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae.*

† He was consecrated on the 10th March, 1256-7, having previously been a Canon of Lichfield. He died 16th December, 1295, and was buried 3rd January, 1296, near to the Bishop's Throne in Lichfield Cathedral.—*Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae.*

and distinct exponent of the stirring age in which the work was written, and more particularly as regards the diocese of Chester. Bishop Francis Gastrell, who was the nineteenth Bishop of Chester, was raised to his high position in 1714, and held the same until his death in 1725. The notes preserved by this ecclesiastic as appertaining to the Bolton living are reproduced here from Canon Raines's transcript, which gives a literal copy of the original, with his own additions in brackets :—

Bolton in le Moor, certif.[ied] 36l. 02s. 00d., viz., Vic.[arage] house and Glebe, 10l.; Pens.[ion] from the Rectory (reserved by Charter), 10l.; Chief Rents paid by sev.[eral] Inhab.[itants], 15s. 4d.; Surp.[lice] fees, 15l. 06s. 08d.

Patron and Improp.[riator], B.[ishop] of Chester.

This was a Prebend annexed to ye Arch.[deaconry] of Chester, v.[ide] *Char.[ter] of Dotat.[ion.]* It was annexed by Rog.[de Weseham] B.[ishop] of Litchf.[ield], who came in an.[no] 1245; [resigned the See in 1256, and died in 1257]; confirm.[ed] by his success.[or, Roger de Longespe], after ye death of ye Incumbent. *MS. St.*

An.[no] 1503, Prior and Convent of Marresley in Yorkshire, presented to Boulton. *Inst.[itution B.[ook]* 1., p. 1. Qu. [ery]wh.[ether] this Bolton ?

CHAPTER XII.

LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY: THE MIDDLE AGES

(CONTINUED).

More of Bolton Prebend in the Twelfth Century—Archæological Confirmation of Early Churches in Bolton—What the Foundations of the Old Parish Church Revealed—Pagan Temples and Christian Churches—Discovery of a Saxon Cross—Runic and Celtic Memorials—Exhaustive Description of Relics found at Bolton: Testimony to Age—Saxon and Anglo-Norman Church Architecture.

EVERTING to the Valor of Pope Nicholas IV.,* it has been stated that no mention of Bolton Church is to be found under the sectional heading of *Arch'ns Cestr'*. The discovery was made in a kind of bye-list, denominated "*Taxatio P'bendar' Lycheffeld.*" The entry which particularly concerns the present history is given in a single line, "*Prebenda de Boulton. Taxatio* £13 6s. 8d. *Decima* £1 6s. 8d." In the margin within brackets appear the words: "*In Arch' Cestr'.*" The question then arose as to which

* Published by the Record Commissioners in 1802, and entitled *Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliae et Walliae Auctoritate, p. Nicholas IV., circa A.D.* 1291.

Bolton of the several in that diocese the entry referred. This, however, was soon arrived at by the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (*temp.* Henry VIII.), which recorded that the value of the "*Rectoria de Bolton super Moras*" was exactly the same as the prebendary in the reign of Henry III. The comparison was satisfactory, and the coincidence virtually and literally abolished the faintest embers of doubt as to identity.

Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis* records that "The Rural Deanery of Manchester comprehended, in the twelfth century, the parishes of Manchester, Bolton-le-Moors, Bury, Eccles, Middleton, Radcliffe, Rochdale, and Prestwich; and at a later period were added Ashton, Flixton, and Deane, which had obtained the rank of parishes." This fact alone carries us to a period some 150 years anterior to the time of Pope Nicholas's Valuation; therefore, the slightest doubt need not remain as to the existence of a Church and Parish of Bolton in the century following that of the Norman Conquest.

The earliest date of the existence of a Church at Bolton as proved by logical or circumstantial evidences taken from extant literary records is shown from the above to be about the middle of the twelfth century. But other remains of an archæological character have defied the hand of time to silence their proof of a Saxon Church having preceded the Norman structure. These relics of a remote age are very interesting not only from an archæological standpoint, but as bearing particularly on the early religion of our semi-heathen forefathers.

During the demolition of the late Parish Church of Bolton, in 1866, many objects of archæological note were found in the walls and foundations of the old sanctuary. Most of these were carefully taken charge of by the then Vicar—Rev. Canon Henry Powell—until the present new Church was completed, when they were removed to a chamber in the tower. Many others, however, are missing—perhaps having again found a place in the foundations of the present church, in which case they will bewilder those who are destined to live in ages yet to come, just as not a few of the relics now known to us mystify the learned in such matters of the present day. Amongst the discoveries were four or five stones which doubtless once occupied places in a church and churchyard of the Saxon period.

It was the common rule for the early Christian mis-

sionaries to erect their sacred emblems or edifices upon or as near to the sites of the Pagan temples as possible or convenient. Most writers of local history during the past twenty-five years agree as to the existence of a Saxon, or Anglo-Norman Church, in Bolton, also that it was followed by another of an early English design, which stood until the beginning of the fifteenth century. It was then—1412-1442—succeeded by the fine old church demolished in 1866 to make place for the present magnificent structure.

Particular care should be exercised in explaining the disentombed relics so singularly restored to us after centuries of oblivion; therefore every detail regarding them shall here be recorded.

Selecting, first, the stones supposed to carry the most ancient date—Saxon and Anglo-Norman—let us proceed to describe a set of three, which, when properly arranged, form almost a perfect specimen of a very fine early Saxon churchyard cross, of a type common in Ireland, and those parts where the Irish missionaries penetrated, as in the Isle of Man and the entire west coast of England. These memorials of a remote past are frequently termed "Runic," and in some cases correctly so; but those bearing runics were of course of a Scandinavian origin, whilst the one under special notice is undoubtedly "Celtic," the interlacing upon the shaft being similar in character to their illuminated manuscripts. Indeed this species of ornament is to be found in the works of art of most periods and of many nations.

The two accompanying sketches will clearly show the four sides of the shaft. It is in two compartments, each narrowing towards the top. The late Gilbert J. French, F.S.A., in his interesting account of *Ancient Sculptured Stones of Scotland, Ireland, and the Isle of Man*, states that there is a common arrangement in most of the Scottish and Irish crosses. Whether they were sculptured into true crosses, like the one at Bolton, or merely engraved on the surface of the stone—which is of still more primitive art—they are divided into irregular compartments, each ornamented with a different device of interlacery or rude figures of human beings or beasts. These divisions, like those on the Bolton shaft, are usually broad at the base and gradually decrease in size towards the apex, and are then

apparently secured together with a twisted band, as if it were of genuine "wickerwork." In the lower part of Fig. 1 the design is the "hectagram," or "double-triangle," commonly called

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

"David's Seal." The execution is by the trefoil, called "three ...rs." which occurs on Dano-Saxon coins of the House of ... the first half of the tenth century. The upper part is ...y of Figure 2, and of the same design. The hectagram on ... is as old as Offa (777), but the trefoiled bands are on those ... ...egnald (943 A.D.) At this ... have been worked and ...od of the Anglo-Saxon ...ttern of ornamentation is, ... This is a curious feature, and very ..., and is an instance of the influence of Eastern designs on ... Celtic people. Certainly the patterns on the Bolton Cross ...ly be judged to be debased copies of those beautiful forms ...n Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man, where Celtic ...ent was carried to its highest state of perfection.

The head, or more correctly speaking the arms, of this ...oss are, unfortunately, imperfect, wanting the upper and lower arms. However, sufficient remains to suggest the shape, size, and pattern of the missing parts, and to show that it is of the so-called Irish, or Frankish, class. Both sides of the arms are neatly though differently cut, one showing a double circle in the centre, with a boss in each arm (Fig. 1); whilst the other presents a large boss in the centre of the head, and a smaller one, connected to the middle by a round band in each arm (Fig. 2). It has been suggested that a round band originally joined the four once existing arms into what is archæologically known as a wheel or circular head, but the absence of any fracture on the extremities of the arms as they now appear tells very much against that theory. Certainly the style of this head is very singular and rarely to be seen, but its singularity adds all the more to its interest. It is not, however, the only specimen of its kind, for in 1875 a cross was dug up in Cheadle, Cheshire, the head of which is very similar to the Bolton relic, and there is little question that they date from about the same period.* It is not unlike the cross-heads reared in St. Cuthbert's time. A coincident feature of this broken head is the clearness of the Grecian pattern on the end of each arm, both of which correspond in a most unmistakable manner with the respective sides of the shaft.

* Earwaker's *History of East Cheshire, vol.* 1, *p.* 186,

The tradition is that the designs as given upon the Bolton cross came from Spain and the East; and in many ways, as shown by Celtic art, this is confirmed. Comparison in such matters is of the greatest aid when endeavouring to fix an approximate date. In Nevern churchyard, Pembroke, is a cross [illegible] resembling the one in question as regards the shaft, [illegible]hafts at Aycliffe, Bedale, Carew, and Hawkswell are [illegible]ike it, whilst a very large collection of similar work-[illegible]ay be found in Cornwall. The latter are, perhaps, the most unique in Great Britain, notwithstanding their extreme rudeness consequent upon the intractable nature of the granite with which the workmen had to deal. It is computed that some 250 crosses of different varieties, besides about 30 inscribed stones, enrich the historical county of Cornwall—a rich harvest field for the antiquary and archæologist.

About the year 1845 two exceedingly interesting crosses were dug up at Higher Disley, in Cheshire. They are of a species of sandstone, and bear some beautiful interlaced bands and knots, with twisted borders, all being cut in bold relief; whilst the Greek pattern, as noticed on the Bolton cross, appears on one side of each of the two Disley relics. Though of widely different sizes, they are supposed to be of contemporary dates, and are undoubtedly of the same period of art as that to which the relics at Bolton belong.*

It is the opinion of some of the most learned in these matters that the interlaced crosses—like the Bolton one—are to be credited with an earlier date than those bearing figures or Scriptural subjects, similar to the specimens at Eyam, Hope, and Bakewell in Derbyshire, and at Sandbach in Cheshire. The latter are attributed to the Anglo-Saxons of a late period, circa 950 to 1100; the former run from circa 800 to 950, and a select few to circa 650. Sculptured remains of early character are scattered throughout the northern counties, and Lancashire shares particularly well in these treasures.

When the two pieces of the shaft comprising the Bolton cross are put together, a measurement of 4ft. 6½in. from top to bottom is obtained—*i.e.*, the lower portion 3ft., and the upper 1ft. 6½in.; the base is 14½in. wide by 8½in. thick; the narrowest portion (at the top) of the shaft is 9in. wide by 6in. thick. The

* *History of East Cheshire*, vol. 2, p. 313, by Mr. J. P. Earwaker, M.A., F.S.A.

head measures 1ft. 6in. across the arms, with a thickness of 5½in., the bend of the arms being 12in. and 10½in. respectively. Therefore, the entire height of the cross (including the head) if it had been perfect would have stood just over 6ft.

Although it is not intended to give in this work the origin and purpose of churchyard crosses—they have from time to time excited much discussion—it may be observed that not only the interlaced tracery, but the grotesque figures and occasional Runic or Saxon inscriptions throw a curious light on antiquity when properly interpreted, and they introduce us also to many obsolete primitive religious ideas.

Dr. Whittaker, in his *History of Whalley*, contends that the crosses at Whalley, which in some significant respects resemble the one at Bolton, were erected to commemorate the introduction of Christianity into that part of Northumbria by Paulinus, the Roman missionary; and that the cross at Ribchester and the three at Ilkley, in Yorkshire, had a similar origin.

In the course of a lecture on "Pre-Norman Sculptured Stones in Lancashire," by Professor George Forrest Browne, B.D.* stress was laid upon the several Saxon relics found at Bolton, and reference was more particularly made to the remains of the once handsome cross now resting in Bolton Church tower. After characterising Whalley churchyard as a place of which Lancashire archæologists might well be proud because of the "almost unrivalled" sculptured stones to be found therein, Mr. Browne says:—"I know of no stone anywhere which really resembles it—the great shaft which stands about the middle of the churchyard—in the remarkably bold spirals with which it is ornamented: bold alike in design and in their relief. It will be noticed, however, that the effect of a gable, sculptured on each side, with a central spine running up the stone from the apex of the gable, can scarcely but have some connection with the like arrangement on the Bolton shaft. And this idea is carried further, and indeed effectually established, I think, by the similarity of the ornamentation on one edge at Whalley and Bolton." The coincident features of these two neighbouring crosses are shown on the shaded side of

*Delivered before the "Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society," in 1886, and printed in the *Proceedings* of that Society in 1887.

Figure 2. As Mr. Browne points out, this is a singular comparison, probably not seen on any other cross throughout the northern counties. The Rev. Canon Atkinson, Vicar, acting under the advice of Professor Browne, has had these fragments of the Bolton cross put together. It was necessary to insert a small piece of new stone for the head to rest upon. With this exception the cross now stands just as it was centuries ago. It has been placed inside the Church, at the entrance from the north-west porch, on a stone base, with an inscription—"This ancient cross was re-erected by J. A. Atkinson, Vicar, 1890." Since its erection the cross has been largely inspected. It has been admired by all who have seen it, being certainly one of the most interesting objects in the church.

Mr. James Croston, F.S.A., classes the cross discovered at Prestbury, in Cheshire, a few years ago, with those to be seen in the places already mentioned, though he dismisses the theory set up about Paulinus as altogether untenable. He suggests, however, that "the sculptured monolith was raised to mark the spot where Bishop Diuma, or or one of his presbyters, in the seventh century first preached the doctrines of the cross in those parts." He closes his remarks by saying that "the peculiarities of its ornamentation go far to confirm the belief that it must have been erected at a date not much later than in Diuma's time."* If this be so, a still earlier date than hitherto supposed may be assigned to the Bolton cross, for the interlacery thereon resembles in many instances that on the Prestbury relic. Instead of being erected to excite homage to the religion of Christ and Him crucified, or to inspire men with a true sense of piety on entering the house of God, it is more probable that the Bolton symbol was meant to illustrate or memorialize some event in local history. Probably it was erected by some of the early converts to the faith to commemorate the spot upon which the truths of Christianity were first taught in our ancient town and parish. Indeed, it was a custom for some of the holy men of early times to erect crosses in places where they had succeeded in converting the Pagans, or where they themselves had for a time sojourned.† Time has denied us "proof positive" of this, but

*_Palatine Note Book_, Vol. 4., p. 1.

†_Ancient Sculptured Stones of Scotland, Ireland, and the Isle of Man_, by Mr. Gilbert J. French, F.S.A., 1858.

our relic of a remote age (as also others shortly to be noticed) is, nevertheless, linked with an almost endless chain of thought respecting the history and religion of our rude ancestors.

Amongst the other ancient relics recovered from the foundations of the late church are two fragments of separate crosses, of slightly different species of stone. The first is a broken head of an Irish cross of circular, or "Glory," design, with a band connecting the two remaining arms into the form of a wheel. The sinister arm is more perfect than the upper, whilst the dexter arm is lost by mutilation. This head would probably be chiselled into shape about the middle of the tenth century. It much resembles the head of Godly Lane cross, Burnley. Figures 3 and 4 give both sides of the old relic.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

The remaining fragment is a portion of a cross shaft (Fig. 5) of very early date—indeed, its age is a matter of great doubt on account of its ruined and weather-worn surface, and it would be difficult to say whether it out-dates the cross already described. One may venture the assertion, however, that this shaft still bears lines of early interlaced work—of what degree of execution is an open question. Its shape is cylindrical, with a ridge or band down one side, which in all probability was formerly characterised as knotwork. If there ever existed a corresponding band down the other side of the shaft, it is now for ever lost. Likely enough the whole fragment, when first carved, was literally covered with small interlacery; time and ill-usage have spared little to aid in identification. It measures 2ft. 10in. in height, 2ft. 5in. round the narrowest part, and 3ft. 4in. round the thickest portion. Prof. Browne, referring to this

undecypherable memorial says: "There is a small fragment at Bolton which has a horizontal section closely resembling that of the fragment set on the top of the shaft at Whalley, with a raised bar passing up the centre of each edge. The Bolton fragment, by the way, I believe, has been elaborately sculptured all over with minute interlacements."

Fig. 5.

The next relic of a bygone age found during the operations of taking down Bolton Old Parish Church is not only very remarkable from an artistic point of view, but also with regard to its subject. It is a stone measuring 18 inches deep, 12 inches wide, and 6½ inches in thickness, with an extremely rude carving of bad workmanship on the face of it. The representation here displayed comprises two figures—Adam and Eve—with an apple resting unsuspended between the lower part of their faces. One figure (that to the left) carries a little drapery thrown loosely about the loins, whilst the other is apparently denuded of all garments. The first-named figure shows only the stump of one

arm—*i.e.*, to the elbow joint. In this primitive picture there appears a dismembered hand, in an upturned position, as if in the endeavour to grasp the right hand of its companion figure. This, in all probability, represents the "Divine hand," and symbolises "God's presence." Another supposition is that it is the hand of Satan in the endeavour to grasp in sin that of one of our first parents in the original downfall of man. A third version aims at making it a literal rendering of St. Matthew's Gospel, 5th chapter and 30th verse:—"And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." The figures stand

Fig. 6.

beneath an ill-formed rounded arch, resting upon equally unproportioned square capitals. This circumstance "reminds us," says Professor Browne, "in principle of those at Halton, which, again, Lancashire may challenge other counties to parallel." The device, as here represented and described, is seen on Saxon crosses, notably on the pedestal of the beautiful cross at Sandbach, which is almost an exact copy of the Bolton fragment; and also on Anglo-Norman tympana, and even on coins of that period.* The date at which this stone was carved would be some time during the eleventh century, although its condition is indicative of having been somewhat smoothed by the chisel prior to being built in the foundations of the late church.

* Written statement by Rev. T. W. Norwood, F.G.S., Vicar of Wrenbury.

The only pre-Norman stone now remaining to be dealt with is one of equally curious design to the last, whilst additional interest is attached to it because of its self-recorded historical importance. As in the previously-mentioned cases, this stone was also discovered in the foundations of the Old Church.

The upper portion of this archæological relic (whether unfortunately or otherwise is open to question) has been cut away by one of the workmen employed in the erection of the church preceding that taken down in 1866. Indeed the interest concerning it thereby deepens rather than otherwise. It was found in one of the tower walls, and produces a measurement of 2ft. 1in. wide, 1ft. 5in. deep, and 8½in. thick. Its present shape is semi-octagonal, and it appears to have formed the capital of a respond or attached shaft, or may be the base of a column supporting an arch, though this is clearly not the purpose for which the stone was originally intended (see Fig 7). The under-side is worked with a series of roll, quarter round, and hollow mouldings of the early Gothic period. The face is adorned with

Fig. 7.

a carving in relief representing the figure of a dragon, or more likely of the conventional lion of the eleventh century. A portion only of the figure remains, a condition caused by the angles of the stone having been cut away. The zigzag mane of early Norman design is, happily, almost intact, though the tail of the beast, which twists between the legs, bending over the back, and in all probability round one side of the neck and into the mouth, has suffered partial destruction. The monster's head is also missing (see Fig. 8). Similar representations to this are said to occur on coins of Anglo-Saxon periods. Professor Browne characterises this figure as "a nondescript monster which Lancashire may claim as a monster it would be difficult for any other English county to match." At the same time he

observes that there was an early slab of white marble near the Church of Sta. Maria in Cosmedin, in Rome, which might "compete with the Lancashire ideal." However, it may be stated that it bears some resemblance in its rude grotesque carving to figures found upon stones filling the upper half of doorways at Ashford, Hognaston, Hault-Hucknall, and Parwich in Derbyshire, and formerly surmounting the doorway at Prestbury in Cheshire. Such sculptured representations as the one in question were not uncommon in Saxon churches, where they were affixed to or inserted in the walls, answering the purpose of pictures in the present day. But it is more likely that the

Fig. 8.

Bolton stone was originally designed and used for a tympanum in the Anglo-Norman church—one probably used by our progenitors in centuries gone by.

This is perhaps the most curious discovery preserved to posterity from the ruins of the Old Church. What adds to the interest of the fragment is that after it had served its purpose of a wall decoration in the Saxon or Anglo-Norman Church, it was, as already shown, tooled into the base or cap of a column for a succeeding church. When this second edifice had closed its history as a place of worship, it was used as menial fragment in the tower of the late venerable structure,

Thus it will be seen that this stone has formed a portion of at least three churches. It now occupies a position in the chamber of the present church tower set apart for the relics of ages past, as they were found when preparing to make room for the noble edifice at present gracing the east end of the town.

CHAPTER XIII.

LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY: THE MIDDLE AGES

(CONCLUDED).

The Annexation of Bolton Prebend to the Cathedral Church of Lichfield—Bolton Church the property of the Prior and Priory of Maresay (or Mattersey)—Roger de Maresay—The Priory of Maresay—An Old Theory Rejected—Title of Bolton Vicars to the Benefice—A Thirteenth Century Petition—Annexation of Bolton Prebend Ratified—Powers of the Vicars of Bolton—An Approval by the Prior of Coventry—Land Given for the Maintenance of Bolton Prebend—Tithes from the Manor of Bolton—Bolton in the Deanery of Manchester and Archdeaconry of Chester.

BEFORE recording the various specimens of Norman architecture discovered about the time and in the same place as those of Saxon date, we will proceed with the ecclesiastical connections of Bolton with the Priory or Convent of Maresay, and with the Dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry, Chester and Manchester. This is advisable that the long-vexed question relative to the first-named may be settled once and for all.

The exact date of the annexation of Bolton Church as a Prebend to the Cathedral Church of Lichfield is still practically

undecided. As already stated the statute of Bishop Nonant is, perhaps, the earliest mention of such existing circumstances—certainly it is the most ancient as yet forthcoming. The muniment room in the Cathedral of Lichfield contains almost innumerable documents and other valuable writings relating to the churches in the entire Diocese. Amongst this mass of dusty and valuable data the compiler of this history has succeeded in bringing to light several most important petitions, ordinances, and charters concerning the ancient Church Patronage, and Prebend of Bolton.

The earliest of these documents is a petition bearing date 1252, the seventh year of Roger de Weseham's bishopric. The *exact* time of Bishop Weseham's confirmation of the annexation of Bolton prebend has not previously been positively arrived at; and readers interested in local ecclesiastical history had to be content with the period between 1245 and 1256 as the nearest approximate date. At this time the position of its officiating priest appears to have been that of "Incumbent." The name of the holder does not transpire.

Previous to the annexation, Bolton Church belonged to the Prior and Convent of Maresay, or Mattersey, a branch or offshoot of the Order or Monastery of Semplingham, in the county of Lincolnshire, but by what right has long been questioned. Whether our Anglo-Norman Church was erected by some opulent Saxon or favourite Norman baron holding possessions in this wild district among the moors, and by him subsequently handed over with certain appurtenances or endowments to the great monastery with which we find it connected in Norman times, no record has been found to prove. Neither can it be declared upon existing evidences that such donor, wishful to devote his life and worldly goods to holy purposes, surrendered himself to the Prior of the Convent of Maresay. In such an event the earliest relationship of Bolton with Maresay would be shown. It is, however, a most singular fact that Roger de Maresay, during King Stephen's reign—1135-1154—owned all the land "between the Ribble and the Mersey," which, as already stated, included Bolton. It must have been during that period when Bolton, by its Church, became so closely allied to the Convent of Maresay, and when, from amongst the "holy men" thereof, were selected the early ministers destined to preach the Gospel in

the Norman Church of Bolton. This theory is particularly noteworthy in the history of the town, and though only of circumstantial creation it is a very feasible explanation why, for so long a period anterior to the Reformation, the Prior and Chapter of Maresay were the patrons of the ecclesiastical living connected therewith. No historian of the town has heretofore thrown out this suggestion, and it is only after considering the question in all its details that the writer ventures to commit it now to print.

Whatever may have been the origin of our subservience to, and connection with, the "house of religious men" at so great a distance, such are the facts of the case. At the same time, the annexation of Bolton Church to the ancient diocese of Lichfield may be viewed as an indication of the growth and progress of that Papal influence which prior to the Reformation tended to absorb the apostolic and primitive—or Old Catholic—English Church.

Having referred so particularly to the Convent of Maresey, a few remarks upon it will not be inappropriate. The Priory of Mattersey is in the county of Nottinghamshire, and is said by the historian Tanner to be a Priory of six Gilbertine Canons, dedicated to Saint Helen, founded by Roger fil. Randulphi de Maresay before the year 1192. The same writer variously spells the name Mattersey, Madersey, and Maresay. Dugdale has given King Edward III.'s confirmation to this house. It recites a confirmatory deed from Isabella de Chauncey, daughter of Thomas de Maresay or Marseya. The Church of Mattersey was appropriated to the Priory on the 6th October, 1280, so as to repair the Prior's losses by a sudden fire. Thomas Woodcock, the last Prior, along with four Monks, duly surrendered the covenant of this religious house on the 3rd October, 1539. The before-mentioned Thomas Woodcock was granted, on the surrender, a pension of £26 13s. 4d. per annum, and the site of the convent was assigned in 31 Henry VIII. to Anthony Nevill, Esq.*

Mr. John Eglington Bailey, F.S.A., in his *Inventories of Church Goods*, published in 1879 for the Chetham Society, gives a copy of a very interesting deed *temp.* 1 Edward IV. [1460-1] from the original parchment in the collection of

*Dugdale's *Monasticon.*

T. Weld-Blundell, Esq. This old writing is endorsed: "A certificate whereby it appears that a corody was belonging to the Lords of Heton out of the House of Maddersey, and that the heirs of the same were some times Patrons of the Church of Bolton." "Hoc est testimoniū de Mathersay" "or Maderssay." The context of the deed will be referred to in greater detail in the section devoted to the "Vicars of Bolton." Mr. Bailey's well-intentioned notes upon the situation of this ancient place read:—"This place, called in Dugdale's *Monasticon* (ed. Ellis, vol. iv., pp. 244-5,) Markye or Marige, in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (vol. v., p. 237,) Marryke, in Gastrell (vol. ii., p. 9) Marresley, in Baines (new ed., vol. i., p. 553,*) Morrossey, but now called Marrick-on-the-Swale, is six miles from Richmond, Yorkshire. The present Church is on the site of the Benedictine Nunnery, founded in 1165 by Roger de Aske, which is the house referred to in the deed."†

Unfortunately, Mr. James Croston, F.S.A., in his edition of Baines's *Lancashire*, has accepted Mr. Bailey's statement, hence the necessity to point out the great discrepancy in the spelling of the name. Marrick and Maresay (or Mathersey) are two distinct places, with convents, unassociated with each other. There is no doubt whatever that "Sir John Coventry" was appointed to the vicarage of the "Kyrke of Bolton," but he was duly presented thereto by the Prior and Convent of "Maresay," and *not* "Marrick," and on his resignation in 1469, William Persyvall (chaplain) was admitted in his stead also "on the presentation of the religious men the Prior and Chapter of Mathersay in the Diocese of York, true patrons of that Vicarage."‡ Another presentation deed of still earlier date§ also to be found at Lichfield, says that these "Religious men" were of the "Order of Sempringham"—*i.e.*, the Convent of Maresay (or Mathersay) was an offshoot from the Monastery of Sempringham in Lincolnshire. On the surface it may appear somewhat strange that the Convent of Maresay, in the county

* Harland's edition, published in 1868.

† Canon Raines, in Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*, Chetham Publications, vol. 19, says:—"This probably refers to the Priory of Marrick and to the Church of Bolton-upon-Swale, both in the North Riding of Yorkshire."

‡ See Persyvall's presentation to Bolton Vicarage. Liber 12, fol. 104, Diocesan Registry, Lichfield.

§ See admission of Thomas Azard to the Bolton living in List of Vicars of Bolton,

of Lincoln, should be in the diocese of York, especially so when it is known that that religious house was so near to Staffordshire, which was in the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. But the fact still remains that until the time of Henry VIII., Nottinghamshire, or at least that portion of it wherein was situated the Priory in question, was subservient to the see of York. This statement can easily be verified by referring to a map of the "*Dioc' Ebor,*'" accompanying the *Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp Henry VIII., Auctoritate Regia Institutus*, vol. v. This work was published by the Record Commissioners in 1825, and may be found in most public libraries. Referring to the map, the county of Nottingham will be seen as forming the southern portion of the Diocese of York; whilst a further inspection will reveal that "Mersey *alias* Matersey Pr." was situated in, and formed part of, the county of Nottingham. Perhaps this will suffice to show that the Convent of Maresay, which held the church and patronage of Bolton in Norman and Medieval times, was *not* in the county of York, and had not the slightest connection with Marrick of that county. This has been a long-disputed and uncertain question, but the facts of the case as here set forth may be accepted without scruple or diffidence.

It may, therefore, be admitted that the Anglo-Norman Church of Bolton was owned by Roger de Maresay, as lord of the manor. When connected by him to his Priory of Maresay he endowed the living by gifts of lands in certain parts of the town. This has been circumstantially but clearly proved in the foregoing account, and ought to be favourably received.

It cannot be denied that Bolton was a parish, with a church spiritual overseer, and long before the Norman Conquest; and it is literally the same parish with a church upon the same site at the present time, with an endowment arising out of what was given by Roger de Maresay, in all probability, as lord of Bolton Manor.

Notwithstanding the inevitable course of events during the lapse of so many centuries—the ever-changing dynasties and religious creeds—the title of the present Vicar of Bolton to his benefice is far more ancient than is the institution of Parliament in this country. Thus the internal workings of our memorable church of Bolton have withstood the vicissitudes of generations. By the teachings of faith in the life and works of her Master she still stands to bear testimony thereto.

The petition of the Maresay monks to the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield for his acceptance of Bolton Church as an annexation to the Cathedral Church and Diocese of Lichfield is strictly to the point under discussion. Therein these godly men express themselves willing to freely forfeit all rights thereto excepting only the patronage to the living, which for obvious reasons they wished to retain as their prerogative. The original petition is preserved in Lichfield Cathedral in the "*Magnum Registrum Album*," whence it has been transcribed and translated.

TRANSLATION.

To the reverend father in Christ, Lord R [oger], by the grace of God, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. W., by the mercy of God, Master of the Order of Semplingham, and the Prior and Convent of Marseya, of the same order, everlasting health in the Lord, with all reverence and honour. Whereas the right of patronage of the Church of Bothelton belongs to us fully and entirely, we fully commit the same church with all its appurtenances to your ordering, intending to ratify and accept whatever your pious fatherhood considers ought to be ordered concerning the same church, reserving to us and our successors the presentation to the vicarage of the same church in order when it falls vacant, for ever. Dated the year of grace, 1252, on the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist. May your pious fatherhood fare well for ever in the Lord.

The reply to this request was soon returned to the Master of the Order of Semplingham. The Church of Bolton was duly and thankfully accepted or confirmed by Bishop Roger de Weseham, and the prebend as stated to have been annexed in Bishop Nonant's time was thereby ratified. From this interesting document it appears that the Priory of Maresay was of later date than the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, to which the Prior and Monks of Maresay were subservient. The kindliness of the monks was gracefully acknowledged by the Bishop, who, before transmitting his reply, had held a council with his Canons as to the advisability of granting his sanction to the prayers set forth in the petition. This interesting document declares that the successive Vicars of Bolton shall be appointed by the Prior and Chapter of Maresay, who were thereupon to present such ministers to the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield for admission and institution into the real and corporeal possession thereof. When the Vicar-elect had been thus received and his presentation confirmed he was to be endowed with power to minister personally in the church, or he could choose a chaplain to perform in lieu of himself. It is noticeable that the word "Vicar" in the event of the exercise of the last prerogative would simply mean "Rector," otherwise power would have been withheld to appoint a substitute.

The following is a translation of the original, which is in Latin :—

TRANSLATION.

To all faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall come, Roger, by the mercy of God, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, everlasting health in the Lord. The honourable wishes of religious men ought to be prosecuted with pious favour, and their desires which are consonant with justice and reason ought to be brought to a gracious effect. We, therefore, knowing the honest conversation of our beloved sons in Christ, the Prior and Convent of Marseya, and their fervent devotion in fulfilling hospitality, and with paternal solicitude desiring divine worship in our mother church of Lichfield to be increased ; and whereas the said Prior and Convent of Marseya of the order of Semplingham, to whom the right of patronage of the Church of Bowelton, of our diocese, is known to belong, the express consent of the Master of the said Order intervening, have placed the said Church, with its appurtenances, at our disposition. We, having God before our eyes, and having had discussion with our Canons of the Church of Lichfield, having held a council about the same Church, We have thought right, that is to say, to ordain that the said Church shall be for ever a prebend of the Church of Lichfield, and annexed to the Archdeaconry of Chester. And that the Archdeacon of Chester for the time being, on the resignation or death of the Rector* of the same Church shall have and hold the same Church with all its appurtenances in the name of a prebend of the aforesaid Church of Lichfield by the collation of us and our successors with the Archdeaconry of Chester in the following form :—

To wit, That the same Archdeacon and every successor Canon of the said Church of Lichfield, shall pay yearly to the aforesaid Prior and Convent of Marseya and their successors, in the name of a simple benefice from the goods of the same Church fifteen marks of silver at the Abbey of Roucestre at the Feasts of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and to the aforesaid Church of Lichfield at Lichfield one hundred shillings every year, in increase of the daily distribution of the Vicar ministering in the same Church, at the Feast of the Annunciation of our Lady, saving the vicarage of the same Church to be taxed by us or our successors to the value of fifteen marks annually, which ought to be assigned in certain portions to the alterage of the same Church as far as they suffice, and in others to be supplied if necessary with competent manse, which Vicar being a fit priest shall be presented to this vicarage by the said Prior and Convent, and their successors, to us and our successors, to be admitted and instituted in due order by us and our successors, and the same [Vicar] shall minister in the same Church, in his own person, with one chaplain and other necessary ministers, and shall have the cure of souls of the whole parish of Bowelton, and shall pay synodals. Moreover, the Prior and Convent, and the same Vicar shall contribute to the extraordinary burdens of the said Archdeacon, according to the rate of their portions. We order and decree that each Archdeacon, on his admission, shall give a corporal oath that he will faithfully pay for ever the aforesaid portions to the said Prior and Convent, and to the Church of Lichfield, at the aforesaid places and terms, save in all things to us and our successors in the aforesaid Church of Bowelton of our parochial and pontifical right and the authority of our Churches. In witness of which thing, to this writing we have caused our seal to be appended. These witnesses :—Sir Thomas, Precentor of Lichfield ; Ralph, Treasurer of Lichfield ; Masters Henry de Wyshawe, Thomas Comyn, Canons of Lichfield ; Sir Roger de Thurton, Canon of Lichfield ; Sir William de Burghton, Clerk ; and others. Farewell. Dated at Heywode ij. Kal. April [31st March] in the year of our Lord, 1253.

This ordinance met with the entire approval of the Prior of Coventry as well as of William, the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield.† To give weight to the Bishop's authority these two dignitaries showed acquiescence by testifying their assurances of

* Meaning "Vicar."

†This was William de Mancester, or Manchester, who was appointed Dean of Lichfield in 1222, being succeeded on his death (7th Feb., 1253-4) by Ralph de Semplingham. On the death of Bishop Alexander de Stavensby, in 1238, William Raley or Rale was elected, but having been chosen to the See of Norwich he went thither, and a new election was commenced. The Canons of Lichfield chose their Dean—Wm. de Mancester—and the Monks of Coventry fixed on Nicholas de Farnham, who, however, refused the dignity, even though urged to accept it by Wm. de Mancester, his opponent. Consequently a third election took place, with the King's permission, and Hugh de Patteshull was unanimously chosen and created,

the premises by sealed writings. The documents are worded alike, save in the case of names, hence the necessity of transcribing one of them only from the Latin :—

TRANSLATION.

To all sons of Holy Mother Church seeing or hearing the present page. B. Prior of Coventry, and the Chapter of the same place, eternal health in the Lord. We have inspected the writing of the ordinance of the Venerable Father in Christ, Roger, by the grace of God, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, under this form :—To all faithful in Christ to whom the present writing shall come, Roger, by Divine permission, etc., as above. We indeed holding the aforesaid ordinance valid and firm in all things, give thereto canonical consent, and by the authority of our Cathedral Church confirm it as much as in us lies, and in testimony and assurance of the premises, we have caused our common seal to be placed to this writing. Dated at Coventry vj. Id. June, in the year of our Lord, 1253.

The next of these Lichfield documents, according to date, relates exclusively to the Prebend of Bolton. It is written in old Latin—being an original official decree or confirmation of Pope Alexander IV.* to Adam de Stanford, Archdeacon of Chester. It is particularly interesting, and advances the argument as to the antiquity of Bolton Church and Prebend thirty-eight years beyond the time of Pope Nicholas's *Valor*. The reply of Pope Alexander IV. to the Archdeacon of Chester was evidently written in the Pope's palace at Avignon (mis-spelt Avagine in the transcript), in France,† on the 4th August, 1254, —that being the first year of his pontificate,—and concerns the annexation of the Prebend of Bolton to the Archdeaconry of Chester.

Researches through various ecclesiastical records for the name of Adam de Stanford have resulted in finding that two Archdeacons so named held the dignity from 1135 to 1139 and from 1271 to 1278 respectively. In the first‡ instance the name is spelt "Stafford," whilst in the second§ it is variously printed "Stanford" and "Stafford." Between the holdings of these two Adams nine other Archdeacons filled the office, but the scarcity of information respecting the Archdeacons of Chester in a measure prevents the positive assertion that there was another

*Raised from the Bishopric of Ostia to the Papal Throne, in 1254. Died 1261.

†The palace formerly occupied by the Popes is built in the Gothic style, and stands on the southern slope of the rock of Doms. It belonged to the Papal States till the period of the French Revolution, when, in 1791, it was included in the French territory. When under the dominion of the Popes it was a much more interesting town than at present. It then contained sixty churches. —*Beeton's Dictionary of Geography.*

‡He succeeded Richard Peche (afterwards Bishop of the See), who was the fourth recorded Archdeacon of Chester. Adam de Stafford was followed by William de Villars.

§He was also Precentor at Lichfield in 1278 (the year in which he died), and was succeeded in the Archdeaconry by Jordan de Winburn in 1279.

and intermediate "Adam de Stanford" in office in or about the year 1254. Consequently the document in question is somewhat confounding with regard to the contemporary existence of Pope and Archdeacon, and raises the question as to whether an Adam de Stanford (not recorded in the *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae*) did or did not hold the Archdeaconry of Chester during the pontificate of Alexander IV. An affirmative opinion is very feasible, particularly when it is known that the valuable ecclesiastical work just named is undecided about the date of the election, resignation, and death of the first-mentioned Adam de Stanford. However, in the absence of corroborative evidence, the document is submitted:—

TRANSLATION.

Alexander, Bishop, servant of the servants of God, to his beloved son, Master Adam de Staunford, Archdeacon of Chester, in the Church of Coventry and Lichfield, greeting and apostolic blessing. When any of us is asked what is just and honest, as much the strength of justice as the order of reason demands that it by the solicitude of our office should be brought to the desired effect. In truth your petition exhibited to us contained that our venerable brother, the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, considered that the Church of Bothelton, Diocese of Coventry, belonging to his collation, with consent of his Chapter, should be annexed to the Archdeaconry of Chester with proper deliberation, as is more fully contained in letters made thereupon, fortified with the seal of the Bishop himself. We, therefore, inclining to your devout prayers, considering as valid and firm what has been carefully done thereupon by the same Bishop, confirm it by the apostolic authority, and fortify it by the protection of the present writing. Let, therefore, no man infringe this page of our confirmation, or with rash daring oppose it; if indeed anyone presumes to attempt this let him know that he will incur the indignation of the Almighty God and of the blessed Peter and Paul, his Apostles. Dated at Avagine, iiij. non. Aug., the first year of our pontificate.

Thus we have it that the petition of the Prior and Convent of Maresay to the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry for the annexation of the Prebend of Bolton to the Cathedral Church of Lichfield was dated 1252; that Roger, Bishop of Lichfield, accepted or confirmed the offer on the 31st March, 1253; and that the whole proceedings relating to the transfer were ratified by the Pope (Alexander IV.) on the 4th August, 1254. These facts, therefore, should be accepted once and for all as the result of a diligent and most careful investigation.

The next of the Lichfield writings—evidently of the same period as the foregoing—is a gift of certain lands situated between Burnden and Lever, towards the maintenance of the Prebend of Bolton. Amongst the witnesses to the grant was one "Master John de Sanwyog." In all probability this is the name of a priest or minister—as testified by the prefix "Master"—who at that time resided, and consequently officiated, in the neighbourhood of the transferred land. Now as the Church in

Bolton was, so far as is known, the only sacred edifice existing within a radius of at least six miles from Burnden or Lever, it may be presumed that this priest had charge of Bolton parish. If so his name should be added to the already excellent list of Rectors, Incumbents, or Vicars of Saxon Bolton. This circumstance enhances the value of the document, thus transcribed :—

TRANSLATION.

To all faithful in Christ, seeing or hearing the present charter, William, son of Adam de Bourynden, greeting. Know ye that I have given, granted, and quit claim, and by this my present charter have confirmed, to Master Adam Staunford, Archdeacon of Chester, and Canon of Lichfield, by reason of the prebend existing in the Church of Boulton, and to all his successors in the same prebend, two acres of land in the territory of Leuer [Lever] towards the west, near the bounds as Bouryndenbrok runs down from Goldensnap into Bourden [?] and thus upwards by the great road extending up to the town of Leuer, with the common pasture and easements of the aforesaid town, quietly, fully, and peaceably, with all appurtenances and liberties belonging to the aforesaid land and town of Leuer, as freely and peaceably as Adam de Bourynden my father held the said lands, with all hereditaments and appurtenances aforesaid, of the said Church of Boulton. And I, William, son and heir of the aforesaid Adam, most freely held the aforesaid two acres, with all the aforesaid appurtenances, I will warrant and acquit and defend. And that this my gift, grant, quit claim, and confirmation of this my charter may have the strength of security, to the present writing I have placed my seal. These witnesses : William de Baggeley, Adam de Leue', Elias his son, John de Leue', Roger de Boulton, Richard de Farynworth, Master John de Sanwyog, and others.

An early rental of the Parish of Bolton was found among a heap of miscellaneous, curious, and valuable papers (some perfect, and some so affected by age as to be almost illegible, others literally crumbled into dust at the touch), in the old iron chest of the vestry about thirty years ago. This account clearly establishes the fact that tithes were payable from the Manor of Bolton to the Archdeacon of Chester, who held the Prebend, or Rectory, of Bolton in the year 1305, and since tithes were a provision for spiritual services, it is needless to say that there must have been at that time a church in Bolton, the duties of which were discharged either by a Vicar, nominated by the Prior and Chapter of Maresay, and instituted by the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, or by a Chaplain or Curate appointed by the same Vicar. The townships mentioned in this document as subject to payment of tithes are identical with those which form the Parish of Bolton as at present constituted. A *verbatim et literatim* copy of this record is appended, as taken from one officially made in the time of Bishop Wilkins of Chester. It is thus described and its accuracy vouched for :—

By Dr. Wilkins, Bpp. Chester } This copy was writ out of a Parchmt. to wch. the seal of the Deane and Chapter of Litchfield was annexed, which with other Papers were deposited in the Hands of Mr. Tildesley, and did concern the Tythes of Bolton :—

To all and every our well beloved in Christ to whom these our p'st Letters testimonial shall come, or whom the underwritten do now concern or may hereafter concern, William Higgs, Professor of

Divinity, Dean of the Cathedral Church of Litchfield, and Chapter of the said Church, know all of you and every of you, and we do hereby notify the same by these Presents, that upon searching our Register carefully and safely kept and preserved in the Archives of the sd. Church, we have found and met with a Parchment roll wrote according to the Tenor of the following Words, that is to say,

A Rental for the year MCCCV. of the Tythes arising from the Manors of the Archdeaconry of Chester, belonging to Mr. Redeswel, then Archdeacon of Chester.

BOULTON :—

Robt. Bradshaw, tythe set to him the sd. Robt. for	xx*s.*
The tythe of Little Boulton and Brytmet set to Willm. Lever for	iiii*£* vi*s.* viii*d.*
The tythe of Blackrod and Croftes set to Willm. of Brads. for	vii*s.* iii*d.*
The tythe of Lostocke set to Willm. of Anderton for	xxxii*s.*
The tythe of Harwood set to Roger o'th' Wood for	vij*s.*
The tythe of the fourth part of Lever set to Adm. of Lever for	vij*s.*
The tythe of Roger of Redclive in Bradshaw set to him ye sd. Roger for	vj*s.*
The tythe of Sharples and Fouds set to Adam of Sharples and Henry Wood for xviij*s.* iiii*d.* only for the first early crop reap'd at the Feast of St. Margaret	
The tythe of Alnasar set to Adam of Ashaw for	xxvi*s.* viij*d.*
The tythe of Great Boulton reposited in the Tythe-barns and valued at	iiii. marks.
The tythe of Tonge set to Ely of Tonge and Jordan o' th' Woods at	iiii. marks xii*d.*
The tythe of Little Lever set to Ely of Lever for	ii. ma. and half.
The tythe of Edgworth and Quarndon set to Richd. of Radcliffe at	ii. marks.
The tythe of Entwisle set to Ely of Entwisle at	i. mark.
A certain part of the Tythe of Turton set to Simon of Bradshaw and Heny. Austin and Thos. o' th' Wood for	vi. ma. ix*s.*
And another pt. reposited in the Tythe-barns valued at	ii. ma. iiii*s.* iiii*d.*
The tythe of Longworth set to Robt. of Longworth and Roger Bynde for	ix*s.*
The tythe of Rovington set to Robt. Cunterlive for	iiii. ma. half.
The sum total xxx*li.* viii*s.*, Little Levr. and Grt. Boulton excepted, wch. are not brought into the above acct., and then the sum total is xxxvi*li.* xix*s.*	

For the Testimony of the truth of all wch. and singular the Premises we have caused these our Letters Testimonials to be wrote, and for a farther confirmation of the same have sealed them with the seals of our office hereunto annexed.

Given at Litchfield, the 23rd of July, one thousand six hundred and forty one.

Endorsed on the back thus :—

Litchfield, xxiii. July, Anno Dom. 1641.

The aforesaid Writing, being compared with a fair Roll now in the Hands of the Dean and Chapter of Litchfield, agrees with the same, of which it is a faithful transcript.

Deposed unto by me, H. Archbold, Notary Public and Register of the Bishop of Coventry and Litchfield.

And then below that endorsed thus :—

xxxth Day of April, in the xxiiiith year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second, shewed then and deposed unto by Sir Henry Archbold upon his examination by

Richd. Browne, Examiner.

Mr. H. Ware, in his *Manchester Church History* (page 99), says that in 1340 "the Deanery of Manchester comprised the following ten churches [this was after Blackburn and Whalley had been withdrawn therefrom] viz., Manchester, Middleton, Bury, Flixton, Radcliffe, Assheton, Prestwich, Bolton, Rochdale, and Eccles, and that the two parishes which, in the place of Blakeburn and Whalley, were admitted within the Manchester decade, were those of Radcliff and Bolton."

The Nonarum Inquisitiones in curia Scaccarii, held pursuant to a commission granted on the 26th January, 15 Edward III. [1341], and "found upon the oaths of the parishioners in every parish," transmits to us a very interesting record relating to the Parish of Bolton at that period, wherein not only the Church of this town is mentioned, but also the ninths of each township are clearly shown, which produce a total of £8 16s. 8d. The extract reads :—

ECCL'IA DE BOLTON.—Non tax' quid est annexa archid' Cestr' nona garbaz vellez and agnoz poch' ejusde valet ad veru valorem viij*l.* xvj*s.* viij*d.* unde villat' de Bolton res' de liij*s.* iiij*d.* Harwood cu. Bradeslhagh de xxx*s.* Eggeworth cu. Entwysel de viij*s.* Turton de xxiiij*s.* Pva Lever de x*s.* viij*d.* Lostok de v*s.* Blakerode de xxv*s.* viij*d.* Anlasargh de ij*s.* viij*d.* Longworth de iij*s.* iiij*d.* Rouington de xiij*s.*

Gregson's *Fragments* include the following :—

The Church here [Bolton], which Mr. Willis says is only a curacy and a prebend of Litchfield, is appropriated to the Archdeaconry of Chester, and is in the gift of the Bishop of that see, having under it Blackrod, Bradshaw, Rivington, and Turton. He also says that the Archdeaconry of Chester, with the prebend of Bolton-in-le-Moors annexed, was valued at £65 10s. 0d. in 1534.

This was evidently according to the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, taken in the 25th Henry VIII. [1534]. The following is copy and translation of the record :—

TRANSCRIPT.

RECTORIA DE BOLTON-SUPER-MORAS.—Impropriat'r ecclesia Lichefelden ad valore £xiij vj*s.* viij*d.* per annui per estimac, Non re hic equia re in comitat Stafford inter prebendas ecclesia Cathedra Lichefelden.

TRANSLATION.

RECTORY OF BOLTON-SUPER-MORAS.—An impropriated Church of the Cathedral of Lichfield valued at £13 6s. 8d. per year by estimation. The impropriation is not returned here, but among the prebends of Lichfield Cathedral in the county of Stafford.

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CHAPTER XIV.

LATER CHURCH INCIDENTS.

See of Chester Created—Bolton Church Dedicated to St. Peter—Value of the Vicarage—A Dispute between Archdeacon Knight and Exors. of Alexander Lever: Evidence of Witnesses—Appointment of Commissioners—Bolton Church Property Dedicated to "Our Blessed Ladie"—Action for the Recovery of Tithes—Prebend of Bolton let to Thurstan Tyldesley: Terms of Agreement—Dr. William Knight surrenders his Archdeaconries—Attachment to the new See of Chester—Bolton successively in the Dioceses of Chester and Manchester.

N the year 1541, King Henry created the See of Chester out of the ancient See of Lichfield; and William Knight, the then Prebend of Lichfield and Archdeacon of Chester, having resigned his rights to the King, the King annexed to the new see "the Prebend of Bolton-le-Moors in Litchfield Cathedral."

In the *Liber Regis*, the King's Book, published shortly afterwards, Bolton Church, dedicated to St. Peter, is styled "a Vicarage, valued at £10 3s. 0d., and in the patronage of the Bishop of Chester for the time being." The Harleian Manuscripts record: "The Church of St. Peter,

Boltune-cum-Moras, Lancashire, was the living of a Prebend of Lichfield. The Bishopric of Chester had, 32 Henry VIII., the annexation of Boltune Church. Lichfield Cathedral had always in times past furnished a Prebend."

An interesting account is given of a dispute between William Knight, Clerk, Archdeacon of Chester, and the executors of the will of Alexander Lever of Bolton. It appears that in the 31 Henry VIII. (1539), Alexander Lever held the Prebend of Bolton by lease from Archdeacon Knight for a term of sixty years, commencing 1529, for the sum of £40. Alexander died in 1539, only having paid to the Archdeacon one half the said sum, who relet the Prebend to Thurstan Tyldesley, Esq. The executors of Lever felt aggrieved at this, and instituted proceedings to recover the lands. The dispute was of considerable duration, and the records concerning the same fill about ten skins of manuscript, principally composed of pleadings and rejoinders. Several summary extracts of the pleading have from time to time appeared in print, but in no case have the rejoinders with evidences been given. These are still preserved to posterity at the Public Record Office,* and a copy of them is subjoined, the wording being carefully observed :—

Elisabeth Lever's and William Bolton's Pleading regarding the Bolton Prebendary Lands.

One *Elisabeth Lever*, widow, late wife of Alexander Lever, deceased, and *William Bolton*, executors of Alexander's will, state :—That during the time the said Alexander held the Prebend of Bolton, vizt. for 60 years, the same Alexander, about 8 years past, made suit unto one William Knyght, Clerk, and yet Archdeacon of Chester and Prebendary of Bolton, to have a lease of the prebendary [lands] of Bolton for 60 years, paying the accustomed rent. He agreed to pay Knyght £40 for the lease. He paid £20 on account, and Knyght faithfully promised he should have the prebendary for 60 years. Alexander, holding the said lease by his will, made plaintiffs executors, and died May 2nd last. The executors agreed to pay the other £20, but Knyght leased the prebendary to one Thurstan Tyldesley, Esq., for 60 years. The said Thurstan, being a man of great power, ejected plaintiffs, who are poor, &c.

Defendant *Knyght* answers, saying he had an offer of £50 for the same, and intended to pay the deposit back, but Alexander died.

The Replycatyon of Elisabeth Leuer & Wyllm. Bolton unto the answer of Wyllm. Knyght, Clerk.

The seyd co'playnantes sayen yt the seyd Alexander Leuer they testator had the seyd Prebendarye [lands] in lease from thre yeres to thre yeres, made unto the seyd Alexander by the seyd Wyllm. Knyght wt a feythfull promyse of the seyd Wyllm. Knyght, yt the seyd Wyllm. Knyght wold neu expell nor put owt the seyd Alexander of the seyd Prebende duryng the lyffe of the seyd Alexander. The seyd Alex. did enioye & occupye the seyd Prebend by the space of ix. yeres or there about, & untyll suche tyme as the seyd Wyllm. Knyght dyd, lett & dymyse the seyd Prebend unto the seyd Alexander, unto the end & terme of lx. yeres, whych leese was so made by the seyd Wyllm. upon Sayncte Markes daye in the xxj. yere of Kyng Henry the viijth., paying xxviij*li.* sterlyng at two feastes of the yere.

The reioynder of Willm. Knyght, Clerk, to the replicac'on of Elisabeth Lever & Willm Bolton.

The seyd *Willm. Knyght* seyth that ther was suche comunycaco'n & agreament had between hym & the seyd Alexander Lever cons'nynge the opteynynge of a lease of the seyd p'bend of Bolton.

* *Pleadings*, 31 Henry VIII., Vol. 29, L. 2.

And that the seyd Alexander promysed to obteyn the good will of the seyd Busshop. of Chester and the Chapiter of Lychefeld whych the seyd Alexander dyd not nor cold not do.

An enquiry was instituted into the circumstances of the case, so that a better understanding could be arrived at, and for this object a writ, dated 6th December, 31 Henry VIII., was issued, appointing Sir William Leylond, knyght, Sir Robert Heskethe, knt, Sir Thomas Southeworthe, knt., Sir Thomas Langton, knt., and Richard Towneley, "squier," as commissioners. They accordingly made numerous enquiries and took the evidence of several witnesses, of which the following is a summary:—

The deposicons and answares for the pte of Elisabeth Leyu, widoe, and Willm. Bol'ton, to c. ten Int'rogatoryes of Sir Willm. Knyght.

To the Furst and second Int'rogatorye.

John Hilton, chapleyn, dwellyng in Bolton in the Mores, of the age of xxxiiij. yerez or thereabowte, Examined and Sworne, deposith and saith that he did make the last wyll and testame't of Alex. Leyu which Alex. did take his oppon. his charge at the day of Jugeme't that he had payed xx*li.*, as by the seid Wyll apperith, of and for a Fyne and Gress'une for the p'bent & ferme of Bolton for the t'me of xl. yerez or mo. And that the seid s' Willm. Knyght p'mysed and covenanted to make a lease for xl*ti.* yerez, and make frende to help to gett the gud wyll of the bisshopp and chappit' seale. Then the seid Alex. Leyu to paye othr xx*li.* in full co'tentacon of xl*li.* for the seid p'bent and benifice, and forthr he knoweth not.

Hamlet Leyu, son of Alex. Leyu, of th' age of lviij. yerez, saithe that he did paye the seid xx*li.* to the seid Sir Willm. Knyght in his owen house at the Chanonrawe at West'm about xj. yerez by past.

Gyles Halgh, tenant to George Halgh, gentilma' of the age of lx. yerez, saith that the seid Alex. Leyu did say that theire was no day nor fest appoynted for the gettyng of the bisshopp and chappit seale.

Hugh Hylton, tenant to Edward Becke, of the age of lx. yeres; *Alex. Whithyngton*, p'st of th' age of xl. yeres, saith in all thynge as Gyles Halgh hathe seid.

Rog' Herdman, tenant to George Halgh, of the age of lx. yeres, saithe that the seid Alex. send not the bill specified by his own mvnd, bot that the seid s' Willm. Knyght send his p'st oon s' Petr. for the said bill and seid his Maystr wold make hym his lease And get hym the Bisshopp and Chaptr seale all at one tyme.

John Hilton, chapleyn, dwellynge in Bolton in the Mores, of the age of xxxiiij*ti.* yeres, saythe that the seid Alex. Leyu did send him and Gyles Aynsworth p'st to the vicar of Bolton to desire hym to take the payn to come to hym and make his wyll.

Jhames Chetham, of th' age of lx. yeres, examned, saythe that he knewe that the seid Alex. Leyu was fermor of the p'bent of Bolton xl*ti.* yeres or aboue. After the seid s' Willm. Knyght was made Archidiaken he demanded a Fyne and Gressome of the seid Alex. Leyu, which was suche a Grett some of money that he was not of power nor able to gyff hym. And then the seid s' Willm. did light at oon composicon, which was that the seid Alex. Leyu shuld gyff & pay yerely xl*s.* in the name of a Gressome for the seid p'bent of Bolton durynge the lyff of the seid Alex.

George Halgh, of the Halgh, gentilma', of the age of xxxiij. yerez, saith yt the seid Alex. shewed the seid George apon his deyth bed that he had paied xx*li.* for the p'bent & Ferme of Bolton to s' Willm. Knyght.

From the above evidence, the holding of the prebendary lands in Bolton is shown to have been in the hands of Alexander Lever for more than 20 years before the admission of Archdeacon Knight to that dignity on 11th November, 1522, thus giving a clear possession of the same from 1499. The evidence is good, and in every way clear; but before proper judgment

could be given in the case, the defendant's witnesses were accorded a hearing. The following are the

Deposicons and examynacons to certan Int'rogatores for the pte of s' Willm. Knyght.

Thomas Longworth, of th'age of xlvj. yeres, sayth yt the seid Alex. Leyu showd hym oft and many tymes yt if the said Bisshop and chapt. sealle cold be opteyned and gotten, that then Doctor Knyght was contented yt he shuld have a lease for a t'me of xl. yeres, and for the same the seid Alex. to pay xl*li.* The seid Thomas deposith and saith that the seid Bill wherein the seid xx*li.* was mencioned was sent agayn to the said Archdiacon by s' Peter, his chapleyn for what entente or p'rpos he knowith not.

James Bolton, clerke, vicar of the church of Bolton, of the age of lx. yeres, saith as the said Thomas Longworth. And forther said that he herd Willm. Bolton to p'cure hym to call the said xx*li.* a dette.

Hamlet Leyu, clerke of the p'ishe churche of Bolton of th'age of xxiiij. yeres, saith that he was diu'se and many tymes at mete and drynke wt. the said Alex., and that he herd the said Alex. say as well upon his deyth bede, as other tymes, that he hade gyuen the said M't Doctor Knyght for his tytle xx*li.*

Richard Smyth, clerke, of th'age of lx. yeres and above, saith yt it doth appere to hym by the contente of diu'se lres of ye verey hand of ye said maist' Archdiacon send unto this depone't that the contente of the article [viii.] be true.

The decision in the case does not appear, but it may be presumed that the Archdeacon was not called upon to re-deliver the prebendary lands to the executors of Alexander Lever. Neither does it transpire whether he refunded the £20.

Prior to proceeding with the next holder of the prebendary lease, reference to the will of this Alexander Lever will be in strict consonance with the subject in dispute. An abstract of this has been preserved by the late Canon Raines, in vol. 27 of his *MSS.* It reads:—

20 April, 1539.—The last will of Alexander Lever. To be buryed in ye Chapell of or blessed Ladie, within ye p'ish Church of Bolton. Covenants with Xfer Worthington concerning the marriage of Jone (or Jane) my dowter. Elizabeth my wiffe. Ellyn my dowter. My son and heire Roger Lever, a minor. Exors.: Elizabeth my wiffe, Roger my son, William Bolton my brother-in-law, and Hamnet Lever my son. To be supervisers: Maister John Atherton, Maister Thomas Holcrofte, Maister Myles Gerard, Richard Gerard, parson of Grappenall, Maister Robert Bolton, and John Orrell.

The above will was duly proved, but whether at Chester or Lichfield information is not to hand; nevertheless, as it was dated anterior to the creation of the Chester See, it may be taken for granted that the original would be deposited at Lichfield. From an historical point of view, as well as genealogically, the abstract is very valuable. From no other document has it appeared that at the period of the Reformation there was any portion of Bolton Church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, or, as the will records, to "Or blessed Ladie." This in itself is an addition to our knowledge concerning the Old Church of Bolton during this great internal tumult, and shows with what determination every vestige of Popery was swept out of that "gray old

church" of our ancestors. This chapel would most inevitably change its name or become entirely demolished on the dissolution of the monasteries, as would many other like attachments. But more of this in another chapter.

A singular action—which may be taken as a sequel to the Lever *ats* Knight dispute—occurred in the 34th Henry VIII. (1542). This was a case in which William Bolton, one of the executors of Alexander Lever's will, brought an action against Thomas Cheetham and Elizabeth his wife (widow of Alexander Lever), to recover tithe corn and the goods and chattels of the said Alexander Lever, deceased, at Blackrod. The property had been left to Elizabeth to be held by her for the benefit of the testator's children, and also for her own benefit so long as she remained his widow. But as she had married Thomas Cheetham, the trustees—including her natural brother, William Bolton—asserted their right and asked for a commission of inquiry. This was accordingly granted, and a decision in favour of the trustees was the result.

On the 5th May, 31 Henry VIII. (1539), Archdeacon Knight (as "Prebendary in the Prebend of Bolton in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield") let to *Thurstan Tyldesley the Prebend of Bolton, together with the Parsonage, Church, and all and singular lands, tenements, hereditaments, tithes, &c., thereto belonging (the advowson of the Vicarage of the Church excepted) for 60 years, paying the yearly rent of £26; to the Vicar of Bolton the yearly rent or pension of £10; to the Vicars Choral of Lichfield the yearly rent or pension of £5 4s. 9d.; and repairing the chancel. All other charges to be borne by the lessor and his successors in the Prebend. This lease, unlike that granted to Alexander Lever, was duly confirmed by the Bishop and Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, and evidently continued in full force until the proper term of expiration. To give authenticity to this statement the original confirmations have been copied and translated:—

And we, Roland,† by Divine Permission, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, do accept and ratify and approve, and by the tenor of these presents, by our pontifical and ordinary authority, do confirm all and singular the things in the said Indentures contained and specified. In testimony of which we have caused our seal to be put to these presents.

Dated at Shrewsbury the 26th day of the month of July, Anno Domini, 1539.

* Bishop Gastrell, in his *Notitia Cestriensis*, erroneously contracts this name "Tho"—meaning Thomas.

† This was Bishop Roland Lee, who officiated at the marriage of King Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn.

And because we, Henry,* the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, the writings indented annexed to these presents having been diligently inspected by us, and proper and mature deliberation being had upon the same, also having considered the things in this behalf to be considered, do decree that the grant and demise in the same letters contained were made rightly and justly, Therefore we the Dean and Chapter aforesaid accept the church and all and singular the things contained in the said letters indented, and we do approve and ratify, and as much as to us belongs by the authority of the Chapter, by the tenor of these presents do confirm them. In testimony of which thing we have put our common seal to these presents.

Dated at Lichfield, in our Chapter House, the 24th day of the month of July, Anno Domini, 1539.

(Leased) By me, WILLIAM KNIGHT, Archdeacon of Chester.

Thus from the twelfth to the sixteenth century, Bolton possessed a Prebendal Church under the peculiar jurisdiction of the Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral, the successive members of which collated the presentee of the owner of the advowson to the Prebendary Stall of Bolton. The sum of £13 6s. 8d. was paid annually throughout the greater part of that period, and was only discontinued on the creation of the Chester See, when the Prebend at Lichfield lapsed.†

As already stated, Dr. William Knight, Archdeacon of Chester and Richmond surrendered his Archdeaconries to Henry VIII. By a General Ecclesiastical Survey 26 Henry VIII., he received from that of Chester an annual income of £77 10s. 0d., but this sum was subsequently diminished. After his surrender he was consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells.

The Diocese of Chester, as created by Henry VIII. on 5th August, 1541, embraced the whole of Lancashire. An extract of the original Latin charter is here translated:—

TRANSLATION OF CHARTER.

Charter of the erection or foundation of the Episcopal See of the Dean and Chapter of Chester from the Monastery of St. Werburgh, 5 August, 33 Henry VIII.

Henry the Eighth, by the grace of God, King, &c. Whereas a certain convent or monastery which once stood was commonly called the Church of St. Werburgh, and all and singular its manors, messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, endowments, and possessions for certain special and urgent cases were lately given and granted by Thomas, Abbot of the same late convent or monastery, and by the convent of the same place to us, our heirs, and successors for ever, as by the charter of the same Abbot and convent, sealed with their common conventual seal, and enrolled in our Chancery, is manifestly apparent, by pretext of which we are seized at present in full right in our demesne as of fee of the site, inclosure, and precinct of the same late convent or monastery, and of all and singular the manors, lordships, messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, endowments, and possessions of the late Abbot and convent.

At the same time the Archdeaconries, which had been placed at the disposal of the King, were granted to the Bishop of

* Henry Williams (not Richard, as stated by John Hewitt, in his *Handbook of Lichfield Cathedral*). He was Chaplain to Henry VIII.

† The various Prebends of Lichfield ranged from 3s. 4d. per annum to £26 13s. 4d. The comparatively large endowment accorded to the Prebendary of Bolton at Lichfield, evidences the importance of its church.

the new Diocese, Dr. John Bird, who had been successively Bishop of Ossory and Bangor, but was deprived of Chester by Queen Mary in 1553-4, although he is said to have accommodated himself to the changes which were introduced by that sovereign. An extract of the original gift of these Archdeaconries is subjoined, showing that in this, as in many other instances, Dr. Bird was successful in "obtaining the entire Archidiaconal power vested in himself, subject to the payment of the customary stipend to a nominal Archdeacon. He reserved, however, the stipend to himself, and had the office executed by a deputy."*

A translation of this grant reads :—

Henry VIII.'s gift of the Archdeaconries of Richmond and Chester to the Bishop of Chester, 5th August, 33 Henry VIII. (1541), and of the Prebendary of Bolton-le-Moors.

Henry the Eighth, by the grace of God King, &c. Know ye that we of our special grace have given and granted and by these presents do give and grant to the reverend father in Christ John Birde, Bishop of Chester, all that Archdeaconry of Richmond in the Metropolitan Church of York, &c.

We do give also, and by these presents we have granted to the same Bishop, all that our Archdeaconry of Chester, and all that our Prebend of Bolton, in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, in the county of Stafford, annexed to the same Archdeaconry of Chester, with its appurtenances. Also all and singular the prebends, manors, messuages, granges, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, tithes, oblations, obventions, procurations, sinodals, glebe lands, pentions, rectories, appropriate, vicarages, churches, chappels, chantries, advowsons, nominations, rights of patronage, commons, courts leet, profits of court, liberties, franchises, privileges, and all other the hereditaments, commodities, profits, possessions, and emoluments whatsoever, with all their appurtenances, in our counties of Chester, Stafford, Lancaster, and York, and in the county of Chester and elsewhere, and everywhere within our kingdom of England, to the said Archdeaconry of Chester pertaining or belonging, or which at any time before this were had, called, known, or reputed as part, parcel, or member of the aforesaid Archdeaconry, as fully and wholly and in as ample manner and form as William Knight, late Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry aforesaid, in right of the same Archdeaconry, or of either of them, or some or any of his predecessors at any time before the several surrenders of the said Archdeaconry, or of either of them, or before the said Archdeaconries came to our hands, had held or enjoyed, or ought to have held or enjoyed, the aforesaid Archdeaconry, manors, messuages, rectories, prebends, tithes, and other all and singular the premises, and as fully and wholly and in as ample manner and form as they all and singular came to our hands, or ought to come, and in our hands now are or ought to be, or in what way soever ought to be, &c. And by ten pounds paid annually to the Vicar of Bolton in the Moors aforesaid.

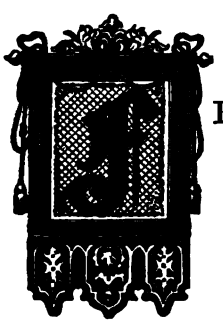
Bolton Parish remained within the area of the Diocese of Chester until the formation of the Manchester See in 1847. It was then determined that Bolton should form part of the new See, the patronage being henceforth in the hands of the successive Bishops of Manchester.

* Canon Raines's Notes on Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*.

CHAPTER XV.

LATER CHURCH INCIDENTS (CONTINUED).

Rectors of Bolton and their Tithes—Deed of Grant—Leases, Releases, and Church Rates in Bolton in the Sixteenth Century —Church Traffickers—James Anderton, of Lostock—Glebe Lands—Tithes in Great Bolton and Blackrod—List of Local Tithe Rents in 1650*—Value of Bolton Rectorship Estate—Surveyor's Report on Church Property—Lease to Sir Orlando Bridgeman—Claim on the Rectory Lands of Bolton —Township "Prescriptions"—Petition from Bolton Churchwardens and Parishioners—Sir Henry Bridgeman surrenders his Lease—"Terriers," or Statements of Fact—The Advowson of Bolton—Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Rectorship Estate—Recent Grants to Churches in Bolton Rural Deanery.*



FROM the foundation of the See of Chester, the successive Bishops of the Diocese were Rectors of Bolton, and claimed as their right the profits arising out of the tithes and Church lands.

One document relating to the Rectory of Bolton is a deed of demise or grant bearing date 16th December, 6 Edward VI. [1551], from Robert, son of Andrew Barton and Thurstan Tyldesley to Edward Tyldesley, the younger son of Thurstan, "of all ye tithe corn & hay, tyth-hempe & flaxe, calves, wooll & lamb, pigg &

goose, ariseing yearly in the hamblet or Lordship of Entwisley for 46 yeares, yielding & payeing xx*s.* at All Saints & St. Marks."

In the first year of Elizabeth's reign [8th April, 1558] there was a "re-lease by Edward Tyldesley, of Myrescough, to Thurstan, son of Thomas Tyldesley, of the Rectory & all tythes of Bolton, exceptinge Entwisley." This Edward was surviving executor of his father—Thurstan.

On May 1st, 16 Elizabeth [1573], the above Edward Tyldesley granted a "re-lease to Christopher Anderton, of Lostock, of all ye Rectory of Bolton, without challenge or demand of any p'cell thereof."

In the following year [1574], "Edward Tyldesley, of Morleyes, reciteinge ye deed made by Andrew Barton and Thurstan Tildesley to George Entwisley, dated 1st November, xxxvij. Hen. 8., and his interest in that Indenture, releaseth vnto Chrofr: Anderton, of Lostock, all tithes, &c., in Entwisley, & all ye Rectory of Bolton for 26 yeares, & the true intent is, & ye said Chrofer: faithfully promiseth to p'mit the said Edward to enjoy ye tithes of Entwisley dureing ye said terme."

A few interesting items respecting the tithes and other Church rates of Bolton may be found in the "Shuttleworth Accounts," published by the Chetham Society. Extracts, chronologically arranged, are subjoined, taken from vol. 35 of that society's works:—

20 September, 1584.—A yallde wch was layed in Littell Boultone towardes reperinge of Boultone Churche and for rynginge upone the crouneasione day [Nov. 17] ij*d.*

February, 1584-5.—Towardes the repairinge of the churche of Boultone fivffe fiftenes x*d.*

March, 1584-5.—A yalde at Lastocke for the reperynge of Boultone church ij*s.* j*d.*

October, 1587.—For tythe corne silver ovtte of the demaine of Smythales, for land lyinge in Boultone p'ishe xv*d.*

February, 1587-8.—for the vecares rurall at Lychfilde to be payed by Wyllyam Kenyon as he goethe uppe [to London], v*l.* iiij*s.* ix*d.*

January, 1589-90.—Tow'des the paymente of the bushopes rente for the tythe corne sylver of Blacrode xl*s.*; and for Boultone tythe corne xiij*s.* iiij*d.* The constablye of Sharples a fiftene towardes the reparynge of Boultone churche ij*d.*

May, 1590.—to the Vicar of Boulton of his waghe iiij*l.*

December, 1594.—parte of the vicars wages of Bolton, due at St. Marke's day next [April 25] xx*s.*

April 23, 1595.—Upon the accompt of Robert Aspeden, for the prebende of Bolton for the last yere as followeth: for the glebe lande lj*s.* ix*d.*; the rents of the tythe corne xviij*l.* xix*s.* iijd.; mortuaryes xxxvj*s.* viij*d.*; arrearages of the Easter roll viij*s.* iij*d.*; the Easter rolle of this yeare xxiiij*l.* ix*s.* iiij*d.* ob; suma totalis of the receytes xlviij*l.* v*s.* iij*d.* ob.

December, 1597.—Lente to Mr. Vicar of Bolton, to be payed at St. Marks Daye next xxv*s.*

December, 1598.—Mr. vecar of Boultone his halfe years wages xxv*s.*

1598.—[Recd.] of Xpofer Anderton and Wm. Wodd, xiij*l.*, which I paid to ye byshopp of Chester for his half yeres rent of his rectory of Bolton, xiij*l.*; for my pte of the money devided between the farmors of ye said rectory of Bolton, over and besydes the payment of the Byshopps rent of ye residew of glebland tiethe corne sylver, xxiiij*s.* iijd.

January, 1598-9.—To Mr. Anderton, my pte of the rente dewe to the vicars corall of Litchfeilde on Ashe Wednesday next, liis. iiij*d.*

June, 1599.—To Mr. Saunders, the late vicar of Bolton, being last of his half yeares stipend, deu at the feaste Martyn the byshope in winter [Nov. 7] last xxv*s.*

The Rectory of Bolton was leased in 1594 to Edward Dutton and John Morgell, two well-known traffickers in Church property. This was for a term of 21 years, but five years before the expiration of that time another change was effected. On the 23rd January, 7 James [1609], George, Bishop of Chester, leased the Impropriate Rectory and Parsonage of Bolton, with all appurtenances, to James Anderton, of Lostock, for three lives,* paying to the Bishop and his successors the yearly rent of £26.† When the surveyors were enquiring into the matter in 1650 the impropriation was under sequestration (as will be shown in the course of this chapter), "the lessee being a papist in Armes and one that wee Cannot meete with."‡ At this time there was a parsonage house belonging to the living, "with a little backeside and some few cottages, but not worth 40/- p. ann.," besides several tenements of glebe lands held by the tenants mentioned below, but their tenancies were then stated to be out of lease§:—

	Rent p. ann. £ s. d.		Rent p. ann. £ s. d.
Alexander Leaver houldeth one Tenement belonging to the Rectory of Bolton, & payeth rent p. ann.....	00 : 13 : 04	:	15 : 00 : 00
Peter Brooke houldeth one Tenement belonging to the Rectory of Boulton, and paieth p. ann.....	00 : 15 : 4½	:	18 : 00 : 00
Roger ffoster houldeth one Tenement belonging to the Rectory of Boulton, and payeth p. ann.....	00 : 15 : 4½	:	18 : 00 : 00
George Norris houldeth one Tenement belonging to the Rectory of Boulton, and payeth rent p. ann.....	00 : 06 : 08	:	08 : 00 : 00
Ralph Ashton houldeth one Acre of Gleabe belonging to the Rectory of Boulton, and payeth p. ann.	00 : 01 : 00	:	01 : 10 : 00
	02 : 11 : 09	:	60 : 10 : 00

* A survey of lands, &c., belonging to the Bishop of Chester was taken in 1649 and 1655, in which the term of this lease is stated to be for three *yeares*. The original deed, however, is correct, for the surveyors admit that they never saw the original lease. According to the Patent Rolls at the Public Record Office, the Rectory was granted by lease to Christopher Anderton 14 Charles I. [1638] for 41 years.

† In an exhaustive manuscript account of the Diocese of Chester during the Bishopric of Dr. John Bridgeman—1619-1652—now preserved at the Diocesan Registry, Chester, it appears that from 1619 to 1630 inclusive, the sum of £13 was received half-yearly by the Bishop (as lessee of the Rectorial rights of Bolton) for farm rents, the same being paid by or "per Jam: Anderton." The life of this assiduous ecclesiastic has been written by his descendant the Hon. and Rev. George Thomas Orlando Bridgeman, Rector of Wigan, and published in 1889.

‡ The Impropriator of the tithes of the Parish of Deane was Christopher Anderton, of Lostock and Birchley, the gentleman of influence whose capture at Preston was considered "so important a matter." An order was made in 1643 for "sequestering the profits of the Rectory of Deane Church from Christopher Anderton to the use of Rev. John Tilsley, the Vicar there."—Mr. J. E. Bailey's *Memoir of Rev. John Tilsley, M.A.*

§ Survey of Church Lands at Public Record Office, transcribed and published by the *Record Society*, vol. I, pp. 188-192.

Most of the tithes were either held upon a rent by lease, or a tithe rate. Only two townships in the Parish paid tithes in kind, which were "the one moieth of Great Boulton for tythe corne and hay worth p. ann. £10 : 00 : 00 rent and £10 : 00 : 00 Rack rent; and blackwood [Blackrod], which is worth p. ann. £30 : 00 : 00 rack. There was a rent paid by the other townships in the Parish, many of the tenants houlding leases, and others paying but a rate tithe." The following is a list of these tithe rents as taken from the survey of 1650 :—

	£	s.	d.
The moiety of Tythe Corne and hay sett forth in greate Boulton paieth p. ann.	01	06	08
The Towneshipp of Entwist[l]e for Tythe Corne sett forth paieth p. ann...	01	00	00
Little Boulton, for tythe corne set forth p. ann.	00	06	08
Halgh for Tyth Corne set forth, p. ann.	00	11	08
Little Leaver, for tythe corne sett forth, p. ann.	00	06	08
Toung, for tythe corne sett forth, p. ann.	00	03	—
More, by Lawrance Brounlowe for Tythe Corne sett forth, p. ann.	00	05	08
Breightmott, for tyth corne, p. ann.	01	06	08
Harwood, for Tythe Corne, p. ann.	01	06	08
Darcey Leaver, for Tythe Corne, p. ann.	00	03	04
Querton [Quarlton], for Tythe Corne, p. ann.	00	03	11
Egworth [Edgworth], for tyth corne set forth, p. ann.	00	08	—
Tarton [Turton], for Tyth Corne, p. ann.	01	15	00
Bradshawe, ffor Tythe Corne sett forth, p. ann.	00	09	—
More, Allexander Bradshawe, for Brittles, for tythe corne sett forth, p. ann.	00	02	00
Longworth, for tythe corne set forth, p. ann.	00	03	04
Runington [Rivington], for tythe corne set forth, p. ann.	00	16	—
Sharples, for tythe corne set forth, p. ann.	00	07	00
More, paid by Ward and Heaton, Tythe corne, p. ann.	00	05	03
More, by Thomas Barton, for Tythe corne for yt of the Demeasne Smethall, p. ann.	00	01	08
Aldsagh [Anlezargh] for Tythe corne p. ann.	00	10	—
Lostocke, for tythe corne p. ann.	00	11	-0
ffoulds, for tythe corne, p. ann.	00	03	-3
	12	13	04

The Vicar of Bolton had at that time £10 paid to him by the lessee. It is recorded that the whole Rectory would then be worth £200 (besides the rent to the Bishop and the £10 to the Vicar) if it had been out of lease. The surveyors of 1650 reported that there were "two honest Ministers there, who have order from the Comittee of Plunder'd Ministers for one hundred pounds p. ann. out of the Rectory and Bishopps Rent of Boulton, and out of the Bishopps Rent in Childwell." The town of Great Bolton paid tithe hay in kind to the lessee; whilst the manner of tithing the Easter roll was:—"Every howse one penny, every garden one penny, one or more henns ob.* If they have any

* "Obolus," *i.e.*, one halfpenny.

ground (except greate Boulton) one penny, every cowe and calfe ld. ob., every sheepe with wooll on his backe ob., every ffarrow cowe one penny, every fole one penny, every swarme of bees one penny, every sheepe laid to scowre in the winter, which is to be paid by the occupier of the ground where the sheepe lye, ob."

Other dues were: "Ollac'on money: every man and his wife two pence, every widdowe one penny, every com'unicant ob. Altarage at a Marriage if the women be of the parish eight pence, a churchdale [churching] foure pence, Buryall one penny."

The surveyors also reported:—

We find in Mr. Andertons booke a coppy of which things were taken by Mr. Harper, Viccar of Boulton. These things were leased out; vizt., James Anderton, by writing dated the 17° August, 42 Elizabeth [1600], Covenants that Peter Brooke shall enioy his Tennement of the Gleabe from May the ffirst, 1599, for one and Twenty yeares. The same James, by a writing of the same date, Covenants with Christopher Longworth and Robert Norris that they shall have the Tennement, late in the occupac'on of George Longworth, for the same terme. The same James Anderton, by writeing dated the last of October, 37th Elizabeth [1595], Covenanteth with Alexander Leayer, That hee, his Executors, Administrators, and Assignes, shall have the Moiety of the Tythe Corne and hay of Boulton for one and Twenty yeares after the date thereof. James Anderton, by Indenture dated 1° Marcij, 5° Caroli [1630], Covenanteth with Richard Sharples, als' Ward, gent., and his assignes, that they have the tyth Corne yearely aryseing out of the lands and Tennements of the said Richard or his Under Tennants and theire privye Tythes, ffor one and Twenty yeares from the Easter ensueing, payeing p. ann. to the Bishopp and his successors six shillings eight pence. Thomas Heaton paid fforty pounds to James Anderton for the moieth of the Tyth Corne and hay of Boulton, to have the same for one and Twenty yeares from 1601. But noe lease made nor writeing. James Anderton promised a lease to Hugh ffoster for his Tennement p'cell of the Gleabe for One and Twenty yeares from May 1599. But now was made only a note under Mr. Anderton's hands. The Twenty-six pounds reserved to the Bishopp, and the Tenn pounds to the Curate, in all p. ann. 36*li* is apporconed, vizt., To the lands, £10 : 00 : 00; To the Tythes, £26 : 00 : 00; In toto £36 : 00 : 00."

The above survey is dated 11th December, 1650.

In 1670 Bishop Wilkins granted a lease for three lives to Sir Orlando Bridgeman,* the full clear profits thereof to go to the Vicar of Bolton, when several rents were first paid. An old document† states that at this time £298 was looked upon as a moiety of a fine for two new lives; and at that time four years value was the utmost ever given for two lives.

When Sir Francis Anderton could not be admitted farmer of the Rectory estates, he delivered all the deeds of the property to Dr. Wilkins, which were (by the consent of Sir Orlando Bridgeman) on the 25th June, 1677, deposited in the hands of the Rev. John Tilsley, at that time Vicar of Deane, "to be by him secured till legally called for." The Bishop, however, retained a list of

* Sir Orlando Bridgeman (created in 1660) was successively Lord Chief Baron, Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

† Copy of the original amongst the Church Papers.

the deeds. A few years afterwards Vicar Tilsley, then residing in Manchester, "fell sick of ye sickness whereof he died." Shortly before this event, four credible persons of Bolton went to see Mr. Tilsley on the 4th December, 1684, whereupon the reverend vicar "tooke yt opportunity to cause a boxe to be produced, which as he then declared contained certain deeds and writings which had heretofore been delivered by ye late Sir ffrancis Anderton to ye Reverend Bp. Wilkins, as deeds concerneing ye Rectory and tithes of Bolton parish, receaved from his ancestors, and by the Lord Bpp. comitted to his custody till legally called for." "For better discharging the confidence placed in him Mr. Tilsley caused the unopened box to be wrapped up in a strong blew paper," and requested that the four men from Bolton should "fixe every one their seale & subscribe their names upon it," which was done, and again left to the care of Mr. Tilsley. In course of time the Vicar of Deane died, whereupon the Bishop of Chester, by a legally sealed parchment, deputed the Rev. John Lever, Vicar of Bolton, to demand in his name the said box of writings from Mr. Tilsley's executors; which he performed by deputy—Mr. George Smith (afterwards a sidesman and churchwarden) being entrusted with the task. The mission was evidently accomplished, as no further proceedings are known to have been taken in the matter.*

Whilst the Tyldesleys held the Lordship of Entwisle they gathered the tythes in kind.*

In 1650 the trustees made a claim on the Rectory lands of Bolton which had been sequestered from Christopher Anderton on account of his delinquency. The original record referring to this is deposited in the Public Record Office, London,† and reads:—

We, Receivor Generall of the Reveneiue of Bpps., deans & Chapters' rent, demandeth for the use of the trustees for Maynteynance of publique Ministers those sumes followeinge, due & in arreare for the yeares underwritten, vizt.:—Claymeth out of the Rectorie of Bolton in Le Mores sequestred for the poporie and dellinquency of Chr'ofer Anderton of Lostocke, Esqre., a papt. delinquent p. ann: £26 : 00 : 00. Recd. out of this Rectorie in the yeare 1650 p'scription tyth rents the first May, £11 : 06 : 05; Recd. for the Gleb rent due the first May in the year 1650, abovesaid, £02 : 06 : 09.

Amongst these records‡ another item appears:—

* Church Papers.

† Royalist Composition Papers, vol. 100, p. 94.

‡ Royalist Composition Papers, vol. 46, p. 47. Amongst the accounts received by the Commissioners for sequestrations in Lancashire, payable from 6th January, 1649; and the same being vested in them by two Acts of Parliament in 1649-1650, and by an ordinance of his Highness in 1654.

The Imppr. Rectory of Boulton on the More p'cell of ye poss'ions of ye late Bp. of Chester, 23 Jan : 7° Jac., demised to James Anderton, Esq., for lives at £26 a yeare, besides a pence [? pension] of £5 4s. 9d., and £10 yearly to ye Vicar. 2 yeares due Michs., 1651.

Sir Orlando Bridgeman sub-leased to the Norreses until 1701, when the sub-lease expired. The property now came into the hands of the Rev. Peter Haddon, who refused to renew the leases for cogent reasons, which he has left on record in the form of three paper documents written by himself about the year 1713.* The first of these to be here transcribed refers entirely to "the case of the Housing and Glebe Lands of the Rectory of Bolton, holden or rented by George Norres, lately deceased, of the Lessees of the Rectory of Bolton." Extracts of the context read:—

Anno 1539, there were the same number of houses and same quantity of land upon this part of the Glebe when Knight, Prebendary of Lichfield, leased the Rectory of Bolton to Thurstan Tildesley; ratified by the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, and by the Dean and Chapter. This lease was for 60 years, and ended 1599, and was the first lease of the Rectory of Bolton that I can find.

What time under this lease the Noreses became tenants under the lessee I do not find, but in the year 160— one of them so built the Parsonage House as it now stands.

In the year 1609, ffloid, Bishop of Chester (Henry 8 having erected ye B'prick and settled Bolton vpon it) leased it for three lives to James Anderton, of Lostock, Esq. Anderton sub-leased these houses and lands to — Norres upon a small fine (consideration had to the building) and small rent (I think £3 3s. 4d. per an:). This lease lasted 60 years.

Anno 1671, the late George Norres obtained (I do not say how) a lease from Sir Orlando Bridgeman, without fine for 30 years, at £6 6s. 8d. During the lease Robert Norres so built a cottage for which also nothing has been yet paid; 'tis set at about £2 9s. od. per annum. The housing and land was worth £25 per ann:, all charges paid, so that for above 100 years never anything was paid for the new built house, nay, the land without that and the other housing was worth more than double the rent.

This lease expired an: 1701-2, then Sir John Bridgeman, lessee, sent his steward to lease the Glebe, with orders that George Norres should have his old share—40s. per ann: less than real value to another tenant—fixing the rent at £21 per ann.

George Norres being low in the world to what he once was, and old, not likely to live long (as most people thought), in charity to him (not to my family) I promised to let him have his old housing for eleven pounds per ann: during his life if I survived him, for which Sir John was far from commending me, and everybody else blamed me, and for which those who received the extravagant kindness were far from thanking me.

In 1704, George Norres was £14 or £15 in arrears. I sent for Robert Norres, and told him I would eject his ffather if the arrears were not paid, and parochial payments made for time to come. Robert Norres promised to see the arrears payd, and the rents as due, and the building kept in repair if he lived. I offered him then to succeed his ffather at £14 per ann: during my life, but this he would not touch upon; nor has he performed what he promised, so that his ffather has been every year in my debt, sometimes £22, seldom under £18, for 13 years together, while I borrowed money at interest; and at last G. N. died £18 in arrears, and some houses in bad repair.

The second paper left by Vicar Haddon summarises the actual income from certain portions of the glebe lands, and compares the same with the real worth of such estates. He also further states his reasons for refusing to sub-lease the property

* Amongst the Church Papers.

to the old tenants at the then rate. The following is taken from the document :—

Before the lease granted to Sr. Orl: Bridgeman for the benefit of the vicar, the Glebe was in lease to the Andertons of Lostock for above 200 years ; and was by them sub-leased upon fines and small rents to several persons, as to Norres, Brooks, ffoster, Lever.

Upon the lease granted to Sr. Orlando Bridgeman and Sr. John, 1670, the Glebe without fine was leased to the then sub-tenants at about half rack for 31 years.

	Lease rent per an:	Value.
to ffoster for	14 : 06 : 08	24 : 00 : 00
to Norres for	06 : 06 : 08	16 : 00 : 00
to Lever, Lawyer, for	05 : 00 : 00	10 : 00 : 00
to Brooks, who sold his lease to Vicar Lever	07 : 03 : 04	16 : 00 : 00
to Okey, who purchased before of Brooks ; left it to a daughter whose husband now has it after her decease	07 : 03 : 04	20 : 00 : 00
	40 : 00 : 00	86 : 00 : 00

What I have to say against renewing the leases is : they have no Tenant right ; for they are but sub-tenants ; have paid no fines ; have not improved the land since their lease ; have not built any more than necessary repairs, who have houses. And if they had Tenant right in the lease 1670, they are sufficiently considered by 31 years lease at half rack, whereby they have had above £1000 off the Glebe, when taxes, rents, and repairs are discounted.

What I have to say for my successors :—1, There's not a rood of land left the Vicar for corn, cow, or horse. 2, The Rectory is but £126 : 15 : 11, out of which is paid £69 : 5 : 0 ; Remains to the Church £57 : 10 : 11.

The third paper left by Vicar Haddon, bearing upon this subject of Rectorial rights, is also preserved, and gives the following accounts :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Prescriptions	11	13	1
Lamb and wooll	15	00	0
great tiths	40	00	0
Easter Rowle	15	00	0
glebe lands	40	00	0
	121	13	1

Paid out to the Bishop :			
to Wigland School	26	00	0
to Litchfield	05	04	9
to the King	01	00	3
Collecting, Easter book, lamb, wool, &c.	12	00	0
	64	05	0
Remains to the Vicar	57	8	1

out of which I pay to the poor for blackrod, the King, highways, and Great Bolton tith to the King £15 18s. —.

On the obverse side of the foregoing statement of accounts a complete list of the "prescriptions" is given, and by whom or which township or hamlet. The total is thus arrived at :—

ffrom	£	s.	d.
Lostocke	0	11	0
Bradshaw	0	09	0
Moss-hall	0	01	0
Vrmestom's	0	00	5
Mr. Lever's in Lostocke	0	00	5
Birches	0	02	0
Rivington	0	16	0
Anglezarke	0	10	0
Turton	1	15	0
Longworth	0	03	4
Entwistle	1	00	0
Edgworth	0	08	0
Quarlton	0	03	11

ffrom	£	s.	d.
Harwood	1	06	8
Breightmead	1	06	8
Tong	0	05	8
Haulgh	0	10	8
Little Lever	0	06	8
Little Boulton	0	06	8
Sharples	0	07	7
ffoulds	0	03	2
Goodman Warde	0	05	3
Arley in Blackrod	0	06	8
	11	5	9

Bishop Gastrell, in his *Notitia Cestriensis*, has placed on record the following note respecting the profits of the Bolton Rectory:—"By Covenant in [a] Lease made by Sr. J. Bridgman, an.[no] 1698, [the] Vicar is to enjoy all ye profits of ye Rect.[ory,] except 20*l.* p.[er] an.[num] to be paid to Wigland School, provided he be nominated by Sr. J.[ohn] Bridgman or his heirs, otherwise ye profits to goe to some other person soe nom.[inated] to officiate in ye Church. v.[ide] *Lease.*"

The date of this lease is 17th August, 1698, and is made between Nicholas, Lord Bishop of Chester, and Sir John Bridgeman, Bart., and whereby in consideration of £50 paid by Sir John, the Prebend, Rectory, and appurtenances of Bolton (the advowson excepted), he was to hold for three lives, paying to the Bishop £26 yearly, provided also that Sir John kept the Bishop harmless from all rents, &c., payable to his Majesty, the Vicar of Bolton, the Church of Lichfield, and to repair the chancel of Bolton Church.* The Rectory was after this enjoyed by the succeeding Vicars, until, at any rate, 1765. An old document of about that period states, that "though the Rectory had been long in lease to the Bridgeman family, yet they always gave it to the officiating minister." It is also stated that Mr. Morrall, one of the Vicars, had made £210 a year, including the vicarage house.

In the year 1737, however, a letter† was written by the churchwardens and some of the principal parishioners to the then Bishop of Chester, stating that "a Report being brought to us from several hands of a wrong representation being made to your Lordship of the value of this small Vicaridge, and considering the consequences that may follow thence, we whose names are underwritten humbly beg leave to give your Lordship a true account of the value of this Living, if the Rectory should be held distinct from it, and leave it to your Lordship's consideration to determine in what manner this populous Parish may be supplied."

The income of the living is stated by these representative parishioners to have been as follows:—

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*Copy of lease amongst the Church Papers.

†Church Papers,

	£	s.	d.
"The Vicaridge House valued at £10 p. ann.; but not set, out of which is paid to Mr. Morris for a way £1	9	0	0
Surplice ffees *communibus annis*	24	0	0
Chief Rents	0	11	0
Two Sermons on Whitsunday	1	0	0
Mrs. Chetham's Gift	1	0	0
	35	11	0

The Easter Dues & small Tyths belonging to the Rectory."

The signatures to the letter are :—

"James Brandwood	Ri: Brandwood
Alexr. Walter	Tho: Shipphard
George Bradley	Jno. Ashton
Hen: Eskricke	Ja: Horrocks, Parish Clerk
Richd. Shipphard	Lawrence Crompton, Churchwarden
Wm. Worthington	John Parker
Hugh Entwisle	Ralph Kirkalle
Geo: Norris	James Crompton."

The returns thus supplied may have been the outcome of a previous return* evidently supplied to the Bishop of Chester from another source. From this it would appear that the Rectory estate was of greater value than otherwise represented. The more favourable account is thus shown :—

	£	s.	d.
"The Tyths of Darcy Lever are set at	10	0	0
The small Tyths are set at	2	10	0
The Tyths of Blackrod in which is included the small tyths. Formerly the Tyths of Blackrod were set at £22 a year in Mr. Morrell's time	37	0	0
John Rothwell, for what he has in possession near the Church, about. It is worth better than double the sum, and his lease expires in 8 or 9 years	16	0	0

* Church Papers.

	£	s.	d.
The Silver well ffields and the Bottoms, and two meadows lying contiguous to the same, set at about.....	22	0	0
The Glebe lying below Bolton Moor, now in the respective hands of James Rothwell, whitster, and the above-named John Rothwell, his uncle, and the Vicar, amounts yearly to upwards of.....	80	0	0
	167	10	0

Shortly after this, under circumstances which cannot apparently be now cleared up, Bp. Peploe in 1740 granted a new lease to Orlando Bridgeman, Esq., of Bledwell, in the county of Salop, taking a sum of £700 for the renewal of the lease, and for an augmentation of £26 a year in perpetuity for the Vicar, making, with that previously granted, the sum of £36 per annum to the Vicar of the Parish out of the Rectory Estate, which is the sum received by the Vicar at the present time.

Immediately after this, Mr. Bridgeman (afterwards Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Bart.), granted a sub-lease to the Rev. Edwd. Whitehead, the then Vicar, who in 1764 was thus in possession of the whole value of the Rectory Estate, for it is on record that "The present Vicar of Bolton (Edward Whitehead) has (1764) the small tythes for his endowment, and a lease of the Rectory under Sir Orl: Bridgeman, Bart."

Another indenture dated 9th March, 1767, between Edmund, Lord Bishop of Chester, and Sir Henry Bridgeman, of Weston, co. Stafford, Bart., recites that in consideration of the surrender of the lease of 1765, and "a competent sum of money," the Bishop agreed to lease the Rectory of Bolton, &c., on the same terms as before. This lease was renewed again on the 9th February, 1790, by William, Lord Bishop of Chester, to the said Sir Henry Bridgeman, of Weston.

On the 7th January, 1826, George Augustus Frederick Henry, Earl of Bradford, surrendered the lease of 1790 to Charles James, Lord Bishop of Chester, in order to have a new one at the yearly rent of £26, and the further payment of £1 15s. 9d. in respect of land tax charged on the premises comprised in such

lease purchased or redeemed by the Right Rev. George Henry, late Lord Bishop of Chester. A renewal was given to the same Lord Bradford, by John Bird, Bishop of Chester, on the 22nd November, 1833, on the terms as before stated, besides £36 in augmentation of the Vicarage.

An Act of Parliament was obtained, and received Royal assent 10th July, 1817, to enable the Vicar of Bolton for the time being to sell and convey in fee simple a certain portion of the glebe lands belonging to the Vicarage of Bolton.

There were certain closes of land situated in Rumworth, co. Lancaster, annexed to the glebe lands of the Bolton Vicarage, by a deed of conveyance dated 9th July, 1825, from James Crompton and his trustees, to the Rev. James Slade, M.A., Vicar of Bolton, and his successors vicars.

Included in the numerous Church writings none, perhaps, excel in interest the "Terriers," or "Statements of facts regarding the value of the Living, and from what source the same proceeds." The earliest of these "Terriers" relating to the Parish of Bolton was forwarded to the Diocesan at his request in 1696. The following is a copy in full,* due observance being given to the original :—

1.—The Rectory is in the Bishop of the Diocese, and wee have only a Vicaridge house—one Bay for stable, a small Garden, Croft, and Seven Small Cottages, with their Backsides, of the yearly rent of eleven shillings, all adjoyning the Vicaridge grounds, and extending from the Vicaridge House downe the streete to the water, the whole not exceeding in quantity three-eigthes of the acre heere vsed.

2.—The Glebe Lands are in the grante of the Bishoppes of the Diocese, and are held by lease granted by the late Lord Bishope Wilkins to the Right Worshipfull Sir John Bridgeman, and by them assigned to foure vnder tenants for the annuall rent of forty pounds, containing by com'on estimation abovte forty acres of the measure here vsed, consisting of arable medowes and Pastures vppon which no Incroachments have ever beene made, and none of the lands charged that we know or ever heard off; vppon which lands are three dwelling-houses and Three Barnes all in tenantable repaire.

3.—Greate and Small Tythes prediall and personall are payable to the Leassee or assignes from all places and Persons within the Hamletts of Greate Bolton, Darcie Leaver, and Blackerode, except Arley demesne in Blackrode, which is pretended to bee prescribed for ffrom all Tythes by the payment of six shillings and eightpence. All other Hamletts in the Parish pretend to prescriptions or composic'ons for corne Tythes, Hay, Hemp, and fflax, and some Hamletts and some Houses for wool and lambe, pigge and goose, milke, and calves; some of which have beene lately questioned, and may bee judged questionable; antient leases and counterparts appearing, which seems to contradict their pretended prescriptions.

4.—The custome of the Parish where there is a man and a wife :—for oblation, 2d.; for house, hen, smoke, garden, and taxe, 2½d.; for hay, 1½d.; for communicants, besides man and wife, each, 2½d.; for mortuaryes according to the state; for Milk Kine, 1d. one; for Calves, not amounting to a Tich, ½d.; for Wool, Lambe, Pigge, and Goose, the 7th, 17th, and 27th, 30 forward. No right of Pasture belonging to the Vicar in particular, but to him and the rest of the Tenants of the Glebe Lands, comon of Pasture vppon Bolton Moor with the inhabitants.

* Diocesan Registry, Chester. There is also a copy of the original amongst the Church Papers at Bolton.

5.—To the Vicar, as Vicar, no Tythes belong, but all to the Impropriator; and from the Impropriator is payed to Lichfield Close the sum of £05 04s. 05d. per annum, which is paid by the Farmer of the tythes.

6.—The Vicars heretofore when the Tythes were held by lease received the sum of Ten pounds, as an augmentation from the Impropriator. But since the commencement of the lease mentioned in the second article, through the beneficence of the late Lord Keeper Bridgeman and the late Lord Bishope Wilkins, all the benefitt of the Rectory is given towards the maintenance of the minister with the reserve of a rent of Twenty-six pounds per annum to the Bishope of the Diocese, and Five pounds, ffour shillings, and ffive pence to Lichfield Close as above, and the sum of Twenty pounds per an: to the vse of a School in the Countie of Chester, called Wigland School, and for further or other augmentations wee have none that wee know off.

PETER HADDON, Vicar.
RALPH ALLEN, Parish Clerk.
Richard Romsbotham,
Gyles Marsh,
Rich: Morris,
Thomas Reynolds,
Arthur Bromiley,
John Southworth,
} Churchwardens.

The second* existing "Terrier" was given at the primary visitation of the Bishop of Chester, held at Manchester on the 6th July, 1728, by "Tho: Morrall, A.M., Vicar; Wm. Worthington, churchwarden; Hen: Eskrick, Robert Rothwell; and James Horrocks, parish clerk." The state of income is exactly as shown in 1696, with the following additions:—

The Vicar has 20s. at Christmas paid of the new closes, the gift of Mr. Chetham; has also 20s. at Whitsuntide charged on James Howal lands at Harwood; for preaching two Sermons the gift of Mr. Lomax, formerly of St. Albans. Sirplus dues: Marriage fees by banns, to the Vicar 1s. 8d., to the clerk 4d.; marriage by licence, to the Vicar 7s., to the clerk 1s.; publication of banns, to the Vicar 3s., to the clerk 2d.; Christening, or registry of Christenings, to the Vicar, 8d., to the Clerk 2d.: Burial of children, the Vicar 11d., clerk 2d.; burial of grown persons, the Vicar 2s. 1d., clerk 6d.

The "Terrier" for 1747† gives the following alterations and additions to the previous statements:—

The present Lord Bishop of Chester, by Indenture bearing date November, 1740, having granted the lease of the Rectory of Bolton to Orlando Bridgeman, Esq., did agreeable to the statute of 29th Charles II., appointe the yearly sum of Thirty-six pounds to be paid by the Impropriator, which sum was then adjudged to be about the yearly value of the small tythes of the whole Parish. We have also the interest of sixty pounds given by, and in the lifetime of Mrs. Susanna Brooks, late of Little Bolton, widow, deceased.

Rev. Edward Whitehead, Vicar, and John Rothwell, John Harwood, James Knowles, Thomas Markland, John Haslam, James Entwisle, and Ralph Vause, churchwardens for that year, signed the "Terrier" prior to its despatch to the Bishop.

At a later date Vicar Whitehead attached his name to a strip of paper which is to all appearance a statement of tithes that were then recoverable by the Vicar. The following is a copy:—

* Diocesan Registry, Chester.

† Original at Diocesan Registry, Chester. A transcript is also amongst the Church Papers at Bolton.

The Tythe of Wool, Lamb, and Goose shall be Taken on the 24th day of June, or within 40 days after, and of Pigg at three weekes old or within seven days after, and when they are not taken in kind within the time before mentioned, for every Tythe ffleece 6d., for every Tythe Lamb 2s., for every Tythe Goose 6d., and for every Tythe Pigg 2s. 6d.; and these several sumes shall be in liew and full satisfaction of wooll, Lamb, Pigg, and Goose where they happen to fall within this Parrish other Customs within this Parrish not here mentioned only excepted.*

Such, then, are the more interesting points connected with the Rectorial and Vicarial properties, as has been gathered from the numerous documents in the archives of Lichfield and Chester, and from amongst the Church Papers in Bolton Church, and elsewhere.

Whereas the advowson of Bolton was, from soon after the time of the creation of the Chester See, claimed by the successive Bishops of Chester, down to about 1840, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners took legal possession of all the real estates from which the chief dignitaries of the Church derived their income, for the purpose of making a more equitable arrangement of the Bishops' stipends. During the course of these changes the Commissioners took over the Bolton Rectory Estate along with other property, and allowed the Bishop of Chester £4000 as a fixed salary for them. To recoup themselves they vastly improved the property and sold to great advantage much of the land. By this means the Rectory Estate has become considerably augmented in value, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, the Bolton Corporation, and other public and private bodies, being the lessees.

The income from the tithes and Church lands in Bolton went to the Vicar from the period of the restoration of Charles II. to about the year 1740, subject to annual fragments to the Bishop of Chester, a school in Chester, and the choir at Lichfield, of under £70 a year altogether. But the mode of dealing with that income since 1740 has been very different. This property, by the beneficence of Lord Keeper Bridgeman and Bishop Wilkins, was conferred upon the Vicar at the Restoration, subject to the above payments, and the transaction was confirmed by an Act of Parliament passed 29 Charles II.

The value of the estates has so far increased by commercial enterprise of the district that the Commissioners have endowed some of the poorer churches within the limits of the ancient parish, augmented the incomes of others, and in some cases granted liberal allowances towards the erection of parsonage

* Church Papers.

houses. These grants were more speedily brought about by the instrumentality of the Rev. Canon Powell, who put the Commissioners into possession of details which guided them in the distribution. The following are the various apportionments out of the accumulated profits of the Bolton Rectorial Estate to each church in the old Parish of Bolton :—

	Augmentation of Living. £	Bequest for Parsonage. £
*All Saints'	17	750
St. George's	—	1500
Trinity	—	—
Christ Church	—	300
St. John's	—	1500
St. Paul's	—	1500
St. Mark's	—	1500
St. Stephen & All Martyrs'	80	—
Emmanuel	—	—
St. James's	60	—
St. Bartholomew's	220	1500
St. Matthew's	—	1578
*Turton	60	750
Bradshaw	70	1500
*Harwood	40	—
Rivington	180	—
Walmsley	80	—
Wingates, Lostock	175	—

Since the year 1840, the Bridgeman family have held the Rectorial Estate in a lease for lives, which have been running from that time as the lives have fallen in. Only two lives now remain, *i.e.*, those of Lord Bradford and the Hon. the Rev. George Thomas Orlando Bridgeman, Rector of Wigan. The decease of these gentlemen will for ever terminate the lease. The Earl of Bradford some years ago made an augmentation of the Vicarage to the amount of £100 per annum, by a perpetual rent charge on his Lordship's estates, which will add to the endowment of the Vicar of Bolton for ever.

The situation of one of these estates is from the Parish Church south to the Old "Cockerill Spring" in Bridgeman

* Conditional offers only were made to these places.

Place. This plot of land is bounded on the north by Churchbank, on the east by the River Croal, on the south by the back of Bridgeman Place, and on the west by Silverwell Lane. The second plot of land includes on the north almost all the Chorley Road Public Park and Recreation Ground, on the east the mills in Spa Road, on the south the Wellington Yard and lands adjoining the boundary of the Chamber Hall Estate, and on the west the Corporation land next to the Heaton Cemetery.

CHAPTER XVI.

ANGLO-NORMAN CHURCH IN BOLTON.

The Clergy and Fealty to the Crown—Synod of 1075 *A.D.—The Normans and Reform in Religion—Clearing the Religious Houses—Alterations in the Saxon Church in Bolton—Restoration of the Edifice by the Normans—Norman Architecture unearthed upon the site of the present Parish Church—Old Memorial Slabs—Stone Coffins and Grave Stones brought to light—The Mainwarings—The Calveleys—Discoveries in the Tower Walls—Image of the Virgin—More of the Chapel of "Our Blessed Ladie" in the Parish Church—Confiscation and Sequestration—Allegation as to Altars—The High Altar—Inventory of Parish Church "Goods,"* 1552*: Detailed List—A Licence to "Th'erle" of Derby—Record of Church Furniture,* 1676*—Sacrilege—Churchwardens' Accounts in the Seventeenth Century.*

OON after the Conquest of England by William the Norman, the prelates were required to take oath of fealty, and to do homage to the King, before they could be admitted to their temporalities. This was said to be for the greater security of the Crown. The clergy were of course grievously disinclined to accept the new law, but William was inexorable, and banished or consigned to prison all who opposed his decree. By a synod held in London 1075 A.D., the precedency of the bishops was

settled, according to their respective dates of consecration, with certain exceptions. Hitherto the bishops had resided in small towns or villages for the purpose of retirement; but at this synod it was determined that the seat of the diocese of Lichfield, in which the County of Lancaster was then included, should be removed to Chester.

This was not the first time that Chester was named as the residence of the ecclesiastical centre of Lancashire and Cheshire, for, as before noticed, the *Annales Cestriensis*, under date 689, places on record the name of Wilfric as Bishop of Chester. Whether, however, that old city was long recognised as the centre of the diocese is a question for further consideration. Certainly prior to 1541 Lichfield and Coventry were united, and formed only one see, whilst Chester was simply an archdeaconry under it. In the year named, and as mentioned in a preceding chapter, Henry VIII. separated Cheshire and Lancashire from the ecclesiastical control of Lichfield and Coventry, and, combining these two areas, appointed Chester as the head of the new diocese.

Not only did Norman rule almost entirely abolish all existing laws, ecclesiastical as well as civil—as constituted by the Romans, Saxons, and Danes—and institute new ones, but other significant alterations and improvements were generally effected in the design and construction of what some would have us call "Pagan temples," but which were, more broadly speaking, "Saxon churches." Whilst the Saxon clergy in their darker days could scarcely stammer out the words of the Sacrament, the Normans revered the observances of religion, and erected churches and monasteries in a style unknown before.*

Many of these places of worship were entirely demolished at length, and the architecture of others was changed to such an extent that the old frequenters scarcely recognised them. Amongst these the old Saxon Church of Bolton may be classed. Its restoration was on a very extensive scale. Its outer walls and some of the pillars in the interior were partially superseded, and some beautifully engraved stone arches and other elaborate ornamentation were inserted. In short we may conclude that the entire building underwent a careful remodelling. Certainly no writings in corroboration have been found, but proof is not

* W. J. Roberts's *Lancashire MSS.*, in British Museum.

far to seek in the pieces of ancient sculpture now resting in the Parish Church Tower Monument Room.

Some of these memorials are purely Norman, one is of the Early English type, and two are as late as the Decorated Period. The Norman relics include four small blocks of stone of one pattern (Fig. 9), and are sections of a very pretty arch of the lozenge design. The stone from which this sketch is taken measures 11in. by 5in., and 6in. wide (bottom and top). Fig. 10 also shows another excellent specimen of a characteristic Norman

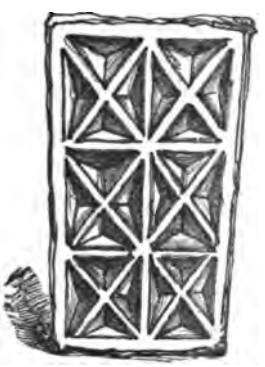


Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.

arch of the alternate billet moulding design, probably dating from the middle of the 12th century, or some forty or fifty years later than the lozenge pattern. This stone measures 16in. long on the outside bend and 14in. inside, with a width of 7in., and is the only one of its kind preserved in the Church tower. The existence of these two styles of architecture substantiates the theory that the Saxon Church in Bolton was not entirely taken down, but was restored from time to time as occasion and the spirit of the times demanded.

Fig. 11.

A third sample of early Norman stone-cutting is given in Fig. 11. This is perhaps the most interesting of the series, not

because of its great rarity in churches of the period nor because of its antiquity, but simply as showing one of the styles of ornamentation of that Anglo-Norman edifice, and perhaps more particularly in consequence of its absence in the Ancient Monument Room of the Church. Since its recovery from the ruins of the old fabric—when it was happily sketched by Mr. James Croston, who has kindly supplied his drawing for this history—it has been confiscated by some over enthusiastic archæologist,

Fig. 12.

or, taking a more charitable view of the matter, it has probably been again buried in the foundations of the present Church. It is, or was, an ornamental moulding of the ordinary duplica chevron or zig-zag design, and would measure about 14in. long by 3½in. deep.

When the north pillar of the chancel end of the Old Parish Church was taken down there were found beneath the basement many fragments of what appeared to be a number of memorial slabs of a very early date. One of the gravestones (Fig. 12)

is 4ft. long, with a width of 2ft. at the head, slightly tapering at the foot. Upon the face is a rudely-delineated cross formed by two incised lines crossing each other at right angles, and on the sinister side, near the foot, is a sword of early date, which would seem to indicate that the stone had been placed over the grave of some person of the rank of "esquire," or "man-at-arms." The second stone (Fig. 13) is very similar in appearance, though not so perfect, having been broken across; a portion of the upper part is also wanting. The length is

Fig. 13.

3ft. 5in., and the width at the head and foot 2ft. 2in. and 1ft. 8in. respectively. A plain cross is likewise incised upon the face, and below; on the dexter side is the representation of a key, commonly supposed to be the symbol of a steward or other high functionary of a great household. Of course this is not conclusive, for some would argue that this particular stone once covered the remains of a female of degree, on the ground that it was, in early times, the province of the sex to keep the keys, about which custom and "women's rights" in such matters some curious instances might be cited. Even an Anglo-Danish law says it was a woman's place to keep the keys of the chest.

Both these relics were of red sandstone, and when discovered were lying one on top of the other. The third gravestone (Fig. 14), also broken in several pieces, contains the representation of a cross, carved in relief, and extending almost the entire length and breadth of the slab. The allocating of this emblem is not

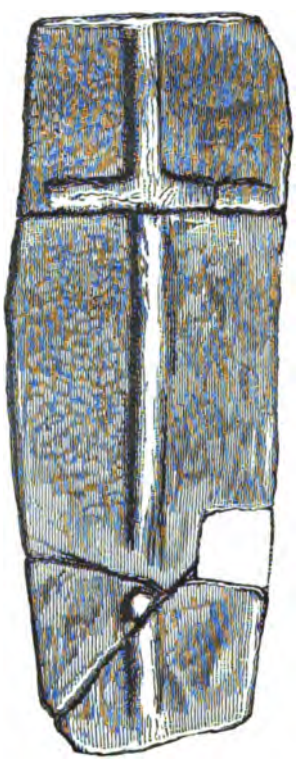


Fig. 14.

far to seek; probably it refers to the spiritual calling of an ecclesiastic whose mortal remains it once covered.

There is no period nor inscription by which the age of any of these gravestones can be determined; but there is very little doubt from their general character that they date from the eleventh century, and had evidently remained in the position in which they were discovered for ages.

The earliest form of Christian monument of which we have any evidence was the slightly raised or coped coffin-lid and the flat tapering slab similar to those just described, with the emblem of the Christian's hope either engraven upon them or thrown into relief by cutting away the remaining part of the stone. Very frequently the cross is accompanied by some symbol or device indicative of the rank or profession of the deceased. It is, however, worthy of remark that in the earlier monuments there are comparatively few instances of an inscription, or even of a name, to assist in identification.*

The Old Church foundations also disclosed the battered remains of a once handsome "engaged" pillar capital of Early English or "Abbey" Period (circa 1150)—the roll and dog-

Fig. 15.

tooth moulding substantiating this. The fragment, which forms a cluster of two pillars, each originally measuring about 11in. in diameter, the combined measurement being 23in., was probably at one time built in the angle of a wall of the restored Anglo-Norman Church for the support of two arch finials (Fig. 15). It is gratifying to record that this stone is now safely deposited with the other early monuments of bye-gone ages in the Church Tower.

Next for description is a stone coffin, discovered at a depth of about a foot from the surface when taking out the tower foundations. The vacuum of the coffin is unusually narrow, and must have been made for a very thin person. The measurements are 13in. across the shoulders, 12in. across the waist, 8½in. at the feet, 9½in. deep, the length 6ft. 3in., and the diameter

* Mr. J. Croston, F.S.A., has courteously supplied much of this description of gravestones.

of the head space 8¼in. (Fig. 16). In removing this lidless coffin it broke in several places, but for purpose of preservation it has since been neatly cemented together. When found it was lying

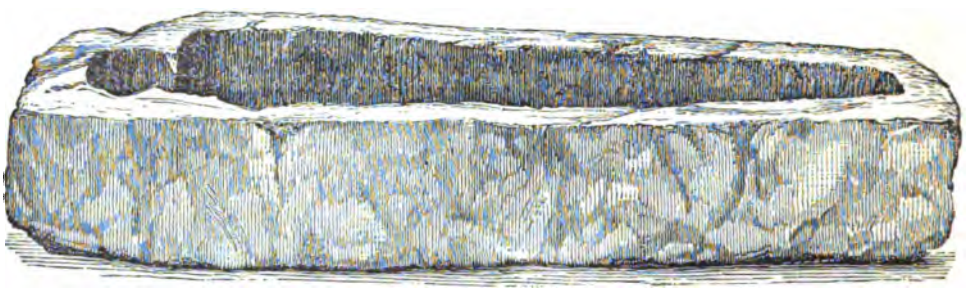


Fig. 16.

with the head direct south. This fact further proves that it was not in its original place or position.

Another stone (now missing, but fortunately noticed by Mr. Croston when present at the demolition, and to whom the

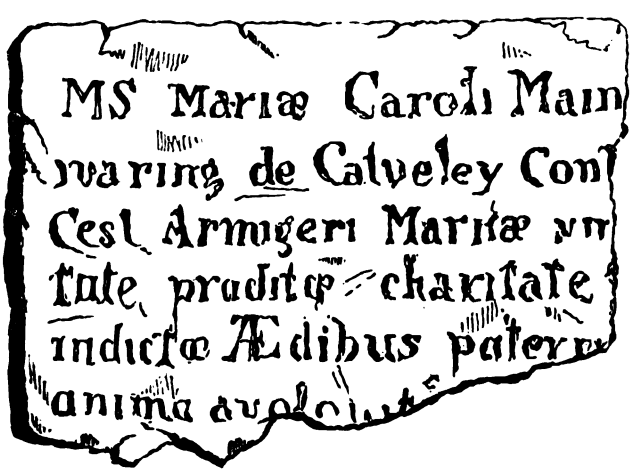


Fig. 17.

writer is indebted for the following remarks thereon, as well as for a sketch from which the accompanying engraving is obtained) was found in the immediate locality of the coffin. This was the

fragment of a monumental slab bearing the portion of a Latin inscription to the memory of one of the Mainwarings of Calveley in Cheshire.

There is no date left on the stone, but the style of lettering shows that it does not possess any great antiquity; and this is further evidenced by the fact that the Mainwarings did not acquire possession of the Calveley estate until about the time of Elizabeth. The probability is that the stone was placed in the position in which it was found when the Church was restored during the latter end of last century. It may be stated that a representative of the Mainwaring family was located at Pennington in the middle of the 18th century, and in the will of Elizabeth Hulme—a daughter of Ralph Robinson, of Kearsley, and the widow of William Hulme, the founder of the Hulmian Exhibitions at Brazenose College, Oxford, dated June 9th, 1700, and benefactor to the Bolton Church Lectureship,—reference is made to the testatrix's niece, Mary, the wife of Charles Mainwaring, of Pennington, gentleman, and daughter of her sister, Jane Egerton.*

The remains of a once handsomely carved monumental stone, representing a full-length recumbent female figure under a projecting crocketted canopy, was also discovered. The arms are crossed, and the figure is habited like an abbess or nun—the head bound in a handkerchief or fillett, and tied under the chin —whilst the feet rest upon a dog. Had the head not rested upon a pillow it might have been concluded that the effigy formerly held a place in one of the walls of a previous church, but this circumstance beyond doubt decides it to be the shattered remains of a coffin lid of some godly lady of affluence. The workmanship is of the "Decorated" type, as is clearly the case in the style of dress. The date may be placed about the middle of the 14th century. This stone much resembles two similar monuments at

*A moiety of the manor of Calveley, in Cheshire, originally held by a family of that name under the Vernons, passed in marriage with Alicia, daughter and heiress of William, son of Richard de Calvelegh, to Nicholas de Wetenal, 21 Edward III. (1347-8), who had issue Joan, daughter and heiress, wife of William Smethwick, of Smethwick. Maud, daughter and heiress, the third in direct descent from William Smethwick, about the reign of Elizabeth, brought the Calveley estate in marriage to Thomas, second son of Randle Mainwaring, of Carincham. It is probably a connection of this stock that the broken stone found at Bolton commemorates.—*James Croston, F.S.A.*

There was an inquisition taken at Bolton, 9 Charles I., on the death of John Calveley, of Soughton, co. Chester, deceased, son and heir of Ralph Calveley, who the jury said was a bastard. He had lands in Great Walden, Cadeswalched, and Barton-upon-Irwell.—*Record Society Works*, vol, viii., p. 346.

Bunbury Church, in Cheshire, which are supposed to date from the time of Edward II. The full length of the Bolton relic is 6ft. 2in., and 2ft. across the widest part; the pillow measures

Fig. 18.

16in. by 11in. It was found close to the tower wall, but within the Church, though not forming any portion of the tower itself. The relic lay about three feet below the floor of the Church, face downwards, as if it had been cast there without care or regard.

Unfortunately it was broken in removal, and has only been partially restored, as seen by the illustration (Fig. 18).

In the bottom part of the tower wall, near the entrance, was the lower half of a draped stone figure, which must originally have been three feet in height. The feet of the image are very small but perfect (Fig. 19), and probably once formed part of a representation of St. Mary the Virgin, which it is thought had belonged to an earlier church.

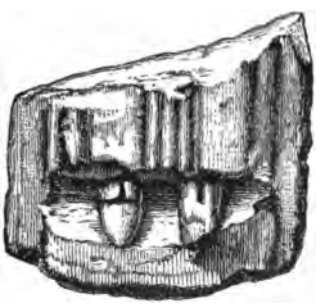


Fig. 19.

Before the time of the Reformation, *temp.* Henry VIII., it was customary in many churches to have small altars at the eastern end of the aisles, that on the southern side generally being dedicated to "Our Blessed Lady."* This must evidently have been the case in Bolton Church, for we find in the last will of Alexander Lever, of this neighbourhood, dated 20th April, 1539, that the testator desired "to be buryed in ye Chapell of or blessed Ladie, within ye p'ish Church of Bolton."†

The representative figure, of which this small fragment only remains, would perhaps stand in the Chapel of the Virgin until the memorable times of the Reformation, when many objects, which were characterised as of a superstitious and popish nature, were taken from their sacred positions. Some were stolen, or rather confiscated, by their admirers, or by those reluctant to conform to the new laws of the Church and realm. What the Crown failed to seize in plate and other valuables were

* *Stockport: Ancient and Modern*, by Henry Heginbotham, vol. 1, p. 200.

† This will would most probably be proved at Lichfield, because at that time Bolton was in the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. It has, however, been extracted by Canon Raines, see his MSS., vol. 27, the Chetham Library, Manchester.

so scattered abroad into private hands that they were with no small difficulty again secured by those who were appointed by the King for the task.

Until now the record of a chapel so dedicated in Bolton Church has not been generally known, and were it not for the casual reference in Alexander Lever's will, the *fact* might have for ever remained in comparative oblivion. Few written records relating to the Church are extant of a date anterior to the Reformation; and as at this time the internal arrangements were so altered and reconstructed—the sacred edifice being so thoroughly cleansed of all so-called idolatrous appurtenances—it may be surmised that even the name of the chapel in question would lose itself in the religious scrimmage. Hence our lack of knowledge on the subject of "Our Blessed Lady's" Chapel.

It has been written that "in 1536 there were three altars placed in the Church of Bolton, the high one dedicated to the Most High, and the two lateral ones to St. Peter and the Blessed Virgin. The Reformation cleared these, with all the ancient tombstones belonging to the families of the Mershams of the Manor, Boltons of the Stydd, Belasyses, Pilkingtons, Levers, Harwoods, Rumworths, Quarltons, Breightmets, Parkers, Farnworths, Entwisles, Turtons, Haulghs, Sharples, Tonges, Longworths, Andertons, and others."* Of the Altar to St. Peter nothing further is known; all is enveloped in doubt. Not so as regards that to the Blessed Virgin, proof of which has been already given.

Though no visible image of early papal predominance in Bolton is preserved to us other than this archæological fragment, it is not the only record of the times relating particularly to our own town and Church. The Church goods, for instance, were somewhat numerous and characteristic of the age. They included many articles particularly suggestive that even during the reign of Edward VI. not a few vestiges of popery were still the property of the Priest, or Vicar, of Bolton, as well as of the venerable house under his ministerial care.

In the 6th Edward VI. [1552], an Inventory† of the "Goods" belonging to Bolton Church was made by commis-

* Whittle's *History of Bolton*, pp. 75-76.

† The original of this Inventory is in the Public Record Office, London, a very faithful transcript of which was published in 1879 by the Chetham Society (vol. 107), under the editorship of J. E. Bailey, Esq., F.S.A.

sioners specially appointed by the young King and his powerful Government; and from this interesting deed a pretty clear idea may be formed of the pre-Reformation internal aspect of the Church. From it we learn that it contained a high altar, a cross and censors, a Sanctus bell, a chalice, and Priest's "clothes to say masse in." These and many other things had evidently been confiscated by Church-attending enthusiasts, but were duly recovered by the said commissioners. It may be taken for granted that other and more costly goods were not recovered. The following is a full copy of the Inventory:—

This Indenture, made ye laste daye off September, in ye vjth yere off ye Reigne off or sou'yng lorde Edwarde ye sexte, by ye grace of god Kyng of Englande, france, & Irelande, defendor of ye faith & in earthe off ye Churche off Englande & Irelande supreme heade, Betwene Edmu'de Trafforth, John Atherton, John Holcrofte, and Thomas Holte, Knyghtes, apon the behalfe off or said sou'yng lord de Kyng, one the one p'tie, Sr. James Bolton, vicar off bolton, Gyles Anyswurth, Raufe hill, John Turner, Henre Knoll, and James Sharpuls, yemen, on the other p'tie, Witnessith, That wheare ye said Edmu'de Trafforth, John Atherton, John Holcrofte, & Thomas Holte haue dely'ued att the tyme off ye sealyng & dely'uaunce off thes p'sentes, To ye said James Bolton, Gyles Anyswurth, Rafe hill, John Turner, Henre Knoll, and James Sharpulls, iij. greate bells. It'm, a Crosse off Coper. It'm, iij. pewter Cruettes.* It'm, a pare off Sensors off brasse. It'm, a Crismatorye† off brasse. It'm, iiij. Copes better & wurse. It'm, iij. Chales off Sylur. It'm, v. sutes of Clothes to say masse in. It'm, ij. Tynacles‡ for a deacon & subdeacon. It'm, ix. aulter Clothes bettr & wurse. It'm, ij. Surplises. It'm, a vayle off lynne' clothe. It'm, a blew Clothe yt dyd, heng afore ye high aulter.§ It'm, a Coverlett. It'm, a Claper off a bell and other Erne off small value, belongyng to ye Churche of Bolton, savelye to be kepte to ye vse off or said sou'yng lorde the Kyng. The said James bolton, Gyles Aynswurth, Rafe Hill, John Turner, Henre Knoll, & Jamys Sharpulls, for them & theire executors, do coven'ntt and gr'nute by thes p'sentes to & wt the said Edmu'de Trafforth, John Atherton, John Holcrofte, & Thomas Holte, That the said iij. Bells, &c., vt supra shall not att any tyme here aftr be alienated, Imbeaseled, or other wyse put away from or sou'yng lorde the Kyng, bott shalbe onswareable & furthe comyng to the vse of his highnes att suche Tyme & tymes as his ma'tie or his honorable Councell shall demaunde the same. In witnes wheare off the p'ties aforesaid to thes p'sentes Interchaungeable haue sett to theire seales the day & yere a bone wryten.

Other goodes belongyng to ye said Churche owte of these mennes handes: Inp'mis, a Chales which was lente by ye wyffe of Ric. bradshaghe in ye handes off Willm. Bolton & Alexander Warde, ge't'. It'm, a sanct's bell in ye handes off ye fore said Willm. Bolton. It'm, a Sute of Clothes dely'ued by Hamlett leyver, Clerke of bolton, to George Warde, whiche sute of Clothes was given of John Sharpulls. It'm, a bucket off brasse, a Canopye‖ of brasse, and a hande bell in the handes off Hamlett leyver, Clerke of bolton.

The confirmation of these confiscated goods to Bolton Church was most likely an endeavour to create confidence in the rulers of the State, not only in the mind of the venerable Vicar,

* Small vessels used for water and wine in the Eucharistic office. They were also used for holding the consecrated oil. The number of cruets is suggestive that they were used respectively for baptisms, confirmation, and sick visitation, for which three kinds of oil were required.

† A box containing the cruets which held the consecrated oils.

‡ Now called "Tunic." A vestment of the subdeacon, shorter than the alb, and with short tight sleeves.

§ So called because it was set apart for high mass. It was situated at the upper end of the chancel, now replaced by the Communion Table. This altar was the principal one in the Church, and on account of its eminence was ascended by several steps.

‖ A covering or hood suspended over the altar, under the shadow of which the vessel containing the host was suspended.

but also of the wardens and other Church officers. The desire to restore to the Church her just possessions was further strengthened in the year following, when, we are informed, that on the 29th October, 1553, there was granted at Westminster "A Licence to Th'erle of Derby and other the Commissioner for Church Goods in the County of Lancaster to restore the same goods to the Churches from whence the same was taken."*

The following record of goods belonging to Bolton Church is taken from the vestry book, and shows an excellent example to those entrusted with similar utensils at the present day. The entry fully explains itself:—

June 7th, 1676.—An Inventory of the goods belonging to the Church taken in the day & yeare above written, w'ch Robert Harpur (? the clarke) is to bee responsible for to the p'sent churchwardens: A Church Bible, 2 Comon Prayer Bookes, another Comon prayer Book, A Booke of Homiley, A Ferule, A velvet Quishen (velvet top), A Communion Table, 1 Green table cloth, 1 linnen table cloth, 1 Napkin, 1 large puter dish, 4 flagons, 2 plates, 1 Houre glasse, 3 Blacke-cloth & 1 small one, A picke and A spade, 2 parts of Mr. Perkins' workes uncheaned, Ann Iron Crow, 2 Bras Candlesticks, 4 Quishions, another spade. On the 31st July, 1676, Ralph Allen was appointed as parish clarke, in succession to Robert Harpur, and the above mentioned church goods were ordered "to bee safe & forthcominge in his hands."

The churchwardens' accounts are for the most part entered in the minute books of the Church; some are preserved in a more fragmentary manner. These loose bills and vouchers were, until about forty years ago, lost sight of—indeed their existence was unknown to either the Vicar or his Church officers—and were only accidentally brought to light. In the Old Church vestry there was a large oaken chest filled with a mass of miscellaneous papers and partially worn-out MS. books and other things of a heavier kind, all of which had been deposited there for convenience. One night thieves broke into the Church and endeavoured to wrench open an iron chest (also in the vestry), with a view to securing the plate. Failing in the attempt they betook themselves to the oaken chest, and emptied its contents upon the floor; but without having further attained their object, they decamped. This led to a thorough investigation of the old and scattered papers, many crumbling to dust in the endeavour to ascertain their contents. Some of them not so decayed, however, were placed between sheets of glass for preservation, and afterwards deposited in the vestry safe, where they still remain. Extracts from these are here made and inserted in their chronological order with others from the first

* Extract from a MSS. Book, formerly belonging to J. E. Bailey, F.S.A.

book of accounts, which commences two years earlier than the minute book. Some of the entries are as follow :—

1654.

Recd. for ye buriall of Ellis Bradshaw dau: in ye church	00	03	04
Recd. for ye buriall of Widow Asley in ye church...	00	03	04
„ ffor ye buriall of Ellis Ainsworth child in ye church	00	01	08
Paid to Law: ffielden ffor slayting ye church	01	13	04
Pd. to ye Saxtone for dressing of ye churchyard	00	01	08
pd. for diching in and about ye churchyard...	00	03	09
pd. for Ringing ye 5th of November	00	10	08
pd. to ye saxtone for putting vp ye stones in ye steeple windows	00	03	04
pd. to him for ye whipping of ye Doggs	00	06	08
pd. for ye mending of ye church bookes	00	11	06
pd. for clasping ye bookes to James Smith	00	03	04
pd. for a rake and a brush for ye vse of ye church...	00	00	04
pd. for a ffox head	00	01	00
pd. for mendinge ye church beare	00	00	10
pd. for a paper book to keepe ye p'ish compts in	00	02	06
Paid vnto ye poore by Mr. ffogg for ye first three months	19	14	06
pd: for mantayning Law: Kirkall's daughter in her sickennesse and for her buriall ...	00	06	00
pd: to an Irish woman	00	02	00
Spent in goeing to Manchester Sessions to John Okey, myselfe, and George Smith, and performing the bills	00	08	07
Spent to save ye towne from mantayneing a bastard child of Joan Pratt's	00	03	08
Paid to ye poore for ye seacond three months assessment...	14	18	02

1655.

Paid Tho: Mason for the Church-yate	00	12	10
Pd. for laying flags and mending steps	00	01	06
Pd. for thornes to ye church yarde	00	00	04
Pd. for mending a locke for the leads doore	00	00	07
Pd: for repaireing of a house for blind Jo: ffogg	01	00	00
Pd: for the mantaynance of a bastard child of Joan Rothwell's, shee being sent to ye house of correction	00	04	00
Pd: for two coffins for the buriall of two poore folke	00	07	00
Paid in charges of Distreining and carriage of goods and defending att Lancaster and Manchester against Revington concerninge the poore taxe	01	18	02

1659.

Pd: to John Ward for goeinge to Eccles with three poore children	00	01	06
Pd. Thomas Rivington for an houre glase	00	00	08
Oweinge to Richard Pomfrett for coffins	00	09	02
Oweinge to John Greenehalgh, blacksmith...	00	07	06

1662.

ffor ye booke of articles	00	01	00
Spent in goeing to ye visitacon	00	01	06
There was allowed & paid to the poore of Blackrode 17s. 3d. a month, wch for 12 months amounts vnto	10	07	00
There was allowed to ye poore of Bolton 6s. 9d. a month, which for 12 months amounts vnto	04	01	00

1663.

The whole taxe for ye poore for twelve months amounts vnto	24	02	08
for fyleing and mending the breach that the flood by excessife rain was maid in church banke	01	01	06
ffor repareing the wall and other worke aboute the Church Banke	02	03	00

1677.

Paid for 38 Hedge hoggs, 2d. pce.	00	06	04
For mendinge the cocke for the great Bell	00	00	06
For a man's paines & hyre of a horse to look for a peice of wood to be a headstocke for a bell	00	01	06

To Captain Walkden for a foxhead	00	01	00
To Raph Smith for a locke for Church door	00	03	00½
To Wm. Taylor wife for washinge serples	00	06	08
Att Robert Boulton's spent when the Parish agreed with the workmen for the partition	00	02	00
Pd. for ale given to the workmen when the partition was maid...	00	01	00
for mendinge the sound of the pulpitt & formes in the Church...	00	04	04
thrid to mend the serples	00	00	01
To Robert Boulton for Church yate-house	00	04	00
To Mr. Jon: Leaver, viccar, for 2 foxheads	00	02	00
To Ann Ainsworth for Rubbing Plate	00	00	06
Paid Mr. Wilson's clarke for drawing p'sentments	00	01	00
1678.			
Paid to the workmen for liming the church	00	16	06
Paid Mr. Monks more for coloring the pulpit	00	07	06
for the sockets for candlestickes & a stable [? staple]	00	01	06
for two gaites to Manchester	00	02	00
vncollected of Alexander Rigby, who I p'sented for refusinge to pay for repaire of Boulton Church	00	00	07
1679.			
ffeby. ye 10th payed to Mr. Greenhalgh ffor John Wollsham for 6 dozen of mols ...	00	03	00
Luther Wood presented for not paying his church lay	00	00	11½
1680.			
Paid for a spade for saxson	00	01	10
paid for a booke on fast day to parrater	00	01	04
1681.			
for 2 hoopes for windlass	00	01	04
Work don at the Chorch, 14 pound of soder comes to	01	01	09
for 11 enamiles mended	00	09	03
1683.			
To hollond Bradley for new staffe and mending the ould	01	01	04
To daniell Hemingway for a buriall Cloath	01	00	00
To william Longworth for making the Cloath, amending the ould ones	00	02	00
To Robert Craven for the mending booke of Common prayer	00	00	—
For repayre of the Church & towards a wall betwixt the Church yord & the Schoole yd., that is to say, one half betwixt the schoole yord & the Ch: yard ...	—	—	—
1685.			
Payed to Edward Woolfet for Beautifying of the Church	05	00	00
Payed to the Lymers for Pointinge of the slate of the steeple and Church, and couleringe of the vestry, and washinge of the windowes and the doores ...	01	00	00
1687.			
for 3 foot and a halfe of new glass	00	01	05½
for 21 quarells putting in	00	01	05
for 8 foot and 4 inches new leaded	00	02	01
ffor gould bought, & oger & varnish & smelt, wherwith the clock fingers weare guilded & fan boards cleansed	00	06	10
ffor workemanship	00	03	02
ffor help to take down the clock fingers	00	02	00
ffor collering & ogering the wethercock	00	03	08
ffor 2 days & halfe removeing rubbish, Church-bank	00	02	00
1689.			
Pd. in wine for ye sacrament for 8 dayes, 64 quarts att 1s. 2d. a quart, comes to ...	03	14	08
Pd. for Breade those dayes	00	02	08
Pd. to the Clarke for washing the linen belonging to the church, cleansing the pewter and plate, and mending ye olde surples...	00	13	10
Pd. to ye clerke for transcribing the register	00	10	00
Paid for a blacke cloathe, silke, and Ribband and tape to Abram Ogden, and for oyle, swines grasse, and packe thread, to him	02	04	11½
Pd. to Tytus Spenser for pointing the windowes, and for finding heire & lyme ...	90	91	96

Pd. ffor making ffence aboute churchyard...	00	01	06
Pd. ffor two Bookes of Prayer for the observation of the monthly fast...	00	01	04
Pd. the clerke for wages in lew of gathering corne att Lent	05	00	00
Pd. to the Apparitor for two Prayer Bookes for Turton and Bradshaw Chappells for the Monthly fast to be observed during the War	00	01	04
1690.			
Paid to John ffleetcroft for makeing a beetle on the top of the steeple...	00	09	06
Paid to John Taylor, saxton, for fflags	00	12	10
Paid to Adam Mather for dyinge 2 Black cloathes	00	02	00
Paid to William ffieldinge, Pariter, for a booke of articles	00	01	00
Paid to Dobby for sweepinge	00	03	04
Paid to Mr. Lever's made [maid] for makeing clean the silver plates...	00	01	00
ffor makeing 3 Poor Bookes to be kept in the Hamblets as well as in the towne ...	00	06	00
And also att three assessments and for gatheringe for the Irish Protestants through the townshipp	00	02	06
1715.			
A Lanthorn	00	02	04
a new Church cloath & mending ye old one	02	15	00½
A new surplus	04	04	10
a wiskett	00	00	03
to ye parish clark his whole year's salary	09	00	00

CHAPTER XVII.

BOLTON OLD PARISH CHURCH.

The Church "Improved with a Chancel," 1450—*Style of Architecture —Stormy Scenes in National and Social Life—Description of the Parish Church of St. Peter—"A very Ancient and Venerable Structure"—Extensions and Improvements— Erection of a Gallery,* 1795—*Setting of Pews—Petitions for Faculties—How Church Expenses were Defrayed in the Eighteenth Century—Constables and Churchwardens— Further Structural Alterations—Beams, Bosses, Carvings, and General Ornamentation—Appropriation of Chancel Stalls—Misereres of the Derbys and Bartons—Funeral by Torchlight—The Anderton Vault—A Curious Circumstance —Letter by Vicar Hadden.*

ANY suppositions have been indulged in as to the erection of the late Parish Church of Bolton. It is much to be regretted that no evidence of a definite character respecting the foundation of the sacred edifice has been found. The balance of possibility points, however, to the early part of the fifteenth century, say about 1420-1425, though we are informed that in 1450 the Church was "improved with a chancel, the gift of Sir John Harrington, knight."

The style of architecture was that known as the Perpendicular Gothic, which had its rise about the year 1400, and

continued to the period of the Reformation. The Church was a poor example even of this; like many other churches in the district which were built about the same time, it had no claim to that magnificence which characterised the fanes of a somewhat earlier period.

The late Mr. G. J. French, who had given much time and attention to everything belonging to the Parish Church, was of opinion—and his view was confirmed by the fragments which were brought to light at the taking down of the Old Church in 1866—that the Church had replaced an older and smaller one, that it had not been built all at once, but by degrees, and that a considerable time had elapsed before it was brought to completion. "Perhaps," he said, "it was commenced some time in the reign of Henry IV., and not completed until a long time afterwards." Accepting this theory, it may not be uninteresting to observe that the Old Church must have passed through some stormy scenes in English history and some curious phases of national and social life before its Registers and authentic records begin. Chaucer, the father of English doctors, had not been long dead. Wycliffe, "the Morning Star of the Reformation," had just entered upon his useful and eventful life; and the Reformation had won its way to a successful issue amid enormous difficulties and frightful trouble and bloodshed. The manners of the times too were quaint and curious. People wore the beaks or points of their shoes so long that it was necessary to tie them up with laces to enable them to walk without stumbling, while those of rank and station made use for this purpose of chains of silver and silver-gilt.

The Old Parish Church was a plain but venerable structure, and for some time prior to its demolition its unsafe condition had been noticed by those responsible. Hence its removal (of which more anon) was inevitable.

A book published in 1714, by "A Traveller in the North," gives the following description of it:—

"The Parish Church of St. Peter's, at Bolton-le-Moor, is a very ancient and venerable structure, and one of the grey old churches of Lancashire—surrounded on the southern side by a vista of trees, and with cottages on the same side. There stood the 'old yew tree,' spreading itself with new buds from its bole of many hundred years of age. The bole had all the appearance

of rottenness, and yet produced fresh shoots. The arrows* of the Lancashire bowmen were made from the wood of the yew tree, and in the reign of Henry VII. they were forbidden to be cut down, and ordered to be renewed by new roots being planted in all the churchyards in England. Many of the houses are postern painted after the manner of those now standing in the city of Chester."

The Church consisted of a square tower, nave, north and south aisles of five bays, and a chancel. The aisle windows were of three lights, the mullions running to the head without any cusps, probably having been cut out. The aisle roofs were compas or span roofs, though they were formerly those known as "lean-to's." There were also spacious galleries on the north, south, and west. The two former were so deep as to abut beyond the arches. The walls showed indications of having been raised with a second tier of windows to supply the galleries. The large chancel, or "magna capella" as it is often called in the Registers, was reached by three steps from the nave, and appeared to have been mostly rebuilt of late years, when decorated windows were inserted. The clerestory windows, five in number, on each side, were square, of three lights, and round-headed, and were scarcely visible from the exterior except at a considerable distance, the aisle roof partially concealing them. The pulpit was placed on the steps in the centre between the two sides of the nave. The chancel was bounded by the Chetham chapel on the north and by the Bradford chapel on the south, and led into a further and smaller chancel—the chancel proper—in which the Communion Table was placed. There was no chancel arch. The pillars supporting the arches were a cluster of four semi-pillars with a broad hollow between them, whilst the capitals were concealed by the galleries.†

All the galleries were not erected at one time. The small gallery at the west end was erected by virtue of a faculty dated October 24th, 1701, by John Crompton, churchwarden; Charles Morton, Edmund Brooks, and John Bradley, parishioners. This elevation, which was subsequently appropriated for the use of the organ, was the property of the said parties, and descended to

* Probably meaning the "bows" and not "arrows."

† Many of these notes were taken by Mr. John Owen, of Stockport, in 1865, and it is by his permission that they have been transmitted to the pages of this work.

their heirs accordingly. The back pews apparently fell to the lot of John Bradley, whose son, George Bradley, conveyed the same to his sister, Ann Oldham, in 1755. The Rev. James Folds, Lecturer in 1803, was the only surviving trustee of Ann Oldham, and in fulfilment of his trust sold, for the benefit of deceased's two granddaughters (Ann Johnson, late Chisenhall, and Hannah Chisenhall), the said seats to the Rev. Thomas Bancroft, Vicar, and parishioners for the sum of £25.

Upwards of eighty years elapsed between the construction of the south gallery and that on the north side. On the 11th October, 1712, a faculty was obtained from the Bishop of Chester by William Smalshaw, Adam Mather, Richard Craven, and Henry Mather, inhabitants and parishioners, for erecting a gallery on the south side of the Church, in length eighteen yards, and in breadth six yards three inches, to which access was to be gained by stairs leading from the churchyard, "on the back side of the porch." In this alteration the applicants undertook to pay all costs and not to prejudice the sight, hearing, nor burial places of any person. The only proviso in the agreement was that the applicants were allowed to receive rents for the pews to be erected thereon.

On the 1st September, 1792, another faculty was granted for the extension of this gallery over the Bradford chapel. The applicant in this instance was Sir Henry Bridgeman, bart., of Weston-under-Lizard, co. Stafford, owner of the Bridgeman (or Bradford) chancel (*i.e.*, chapel), which was "an appurtenante to the Hall and Manor of Haulgh," and which chancel the "petitioner and his ancestors from time immemorial maintained and repaired." The extension was required on account of the scarcity of room for the accommodation of petitioner's tenants residing in Haulgh. This faculty was granted subject to the work being done at the petitioner's personal cost, and to his "raising the walls and roof of the said chancel as high as the nave of the said Parish Church, and afterwards to erect a gallery in the said chancel to extend from east to west 21ft., and in breadth 18ft. 3in., with convenient pews and seats upon a level with the gallery already erected on the south side; and also to make a passage to the intended gallery by removing a certain pew at the east end of the first erected gallery." The petition for the faculty was favourable to the Rev. Jeremiah Gilpin,

Vicar; Benjamin Rawson, warden; and John Leigh, sidesman.

The north gallery was not proceeded with until the time of Vicar Bancroft, in 1795. It was then arranged, after obtaining the Bishop's sanction, to erect a gallery of 73ft. over the north aisle, with an extension of 17ft. over the Chetham chancel (or chapel), with a uniform projection into the Church with the gallery on the south side, and to join the gallery already erected at the west end, where it was intended to erect an organ, which was to be purchased by the contributions of "several well disposed persons." The cost of these alterations (excepting in the Chetham chapel) was to be discharged out of the Church funds, the Vicar and officers being permitted to let the pews on the north side to recover the annual sum of £21, which was to be "for the use and benefit of the organist performing in the Church." The remaining seats in the south-west gallery were to be for the sole use of the poor inhabitants of the parish, with the alternative of letting the same towards the augmentation of the organist's salary. The pews to be erected in the gallery over the Chetham chapel were in the hands of Robert Knowles —the owner of the said chapel– to sell for the best price to the inhabitants of the parish; for which permission he was to be at the entire cost of "taking off the roof of the said chancel and to raise the walls thereof, to place windows therein, and complete the same in like manner as the wall and roof of the north aisle; and to erect a gallery over the said chancel" to correspond with that adjoining. This faculty also granted permission to the promoters to erect a staircase from the yard at the north-west end of the Church to lead to the proposed new gallery. The pulpit and reading desk were likewise removed from their former situation and placed at the east end of the middle aisle on or near to the steps leading into the chancel, in which position they remained undisturbed until the venerable old pile was finally closed in 1866. The petitioners in the cause for these improvements were John Kinder, Francis Smith, John Crooke, Abraham Hulme, William Seddon, and Nicholas Makinson, wardens of the parish and Parish Church of Bolton; Ralph Fletcher, of Haulgh, gent.; Thomas Crompton, innkeeper; John Ridgway, cotton manufacturer; Robert Bolton, cotton manufacturer; John Woods, ironmonger; Jas. Pearson, druggist; Samuel Houghton, wine merchant; Thomas Howell, haberdasher; Thomas Fogg,

Thomas Naylor, James Fletcher, and Adam Fletcher, cotton manufacturers; John Whiteley, gent.; and Robert Knowles, of Little Bolton, yeoman.

From time to time necessary repairs to all these galleries were effected, not out of the Church funds, but from the private purses of the respective owners.

It is perhaps well known that all Church expenses were defrayed by a "ley" or rate upon the whole parish, and it therefore may be surmised with what opposition new schemes met, at this particular time, when Dissent was kindling in quarters other than amongst the Presbyterians.

During the time of Vicar Morrall, some "dormant windows" had been placed in the roof of the south gallery by the proprietors of those elevated pews, for the purpose of lighting that side of the Church. These windows, or skylights, were evidently not water-tight; consequently, much damage ensued to the beams supporting that portion of the roof. The matter had been discussed at previous Vestry meetings as to the liability of repairs thus necessitated, but nothing definite had been arrived at as to whether the parishioners or proprietors of the said gallery were morally and legally responsible. The matter was brought to a head by resolution of a vestry meeting held on the 8th March, 1737-8, when the proprietors of the gallery were found to be liable for the repairs. This resolution reads:—"It was agreed by ye parishioners yn present yt if ye proprietors of ye gallery erected on ye south side of ye Parish Church shall neglect or refuse to make good ye damage occasioned by putting out Dormant Windows by ye original proprietors in order to lighten ye side gallery, on or before ye first day of June next ensuing, ye proprietors of ye sd gallery shall be prosecuted by ye Churchwardens yn in being, at ye publick cost & charge." The Vicar and ten parishioners signed the resolution. Proceedings, however, were stayed, and a compromise made by the contending parties. Ultimately it was agreed that "ye six beams lying at each side of three windows shall be repaired by ye parish & ye proprietors of ye sd gallery at a joynt equal charge." The work, therefore, was proceeded with, but when the roof of the south side was removed the question arose as to the best and most effectual way of repairing the same. Upon this a meeting of the inhabitants of the town was called in the

following terms:—"Whereas ye Roof of ye south side of the church being now taken off, & ye congregation exposed to ye weather, this is to give notice to ye inhabitants of ye p'ish to meet at ye church on Wednesday, ye eight day of August next ensuing, at two o'th' clock i'th' afternoon, to consider in what manner ye sd roof is to be repaired, & to make a top for ye same.—Bolton, July 29th, 1739." The meeting was duly held, and it was agreed to levy a rate of £80 upon the whole parish for "church repairs & other necessary & usual charges."

The question now arose as to whether the roof of the south side should be "slated" or "leaded." There is no doubt that something of this nature was anticipated by the inhabitants of the town, if we may judge from their numerous attendance. Of course the best class of work was resolved upon by a substantial majority, and it was decided, by 134 votes against 81, to "lead" the roof, the minority evidently thinking that slating was costly enough to be paid out of the Church rate, though another record says that the whole of the roof was previously leaded. Thus a matter which had been in dispute for many years as regarded the liability for repairs ended satisfactorily to all parties concerned, and a better roof was secured for the time-honoured Church of our forefathers.*

From the foregoing statements the disproportionate aspect of the Church during the 18th century may be well imagined—an aspect caused particularly by the southern wall being raised to the height of a second window. The unsightly hunchbacked appearance was allowed to exist for eighty years before something like uniformity was obtained.

The pews throughout the Church were of the primitive high-back type, better known as "Bishop Burnet's style." They were of all sorts and sizes, lengths and breadths, heights and depths. Many of them were the old oaken benches simply "boxed in," others had been "made to order" so as to fit closely in between their neighbours. Perhaps the most important of these pews was that known as the "Constables' pew." The constables of over 200 years ago were far different to the institution created by Sir Robert Peel, nor did they perform the duties of those useful functionaries. They were, rather, on a footing with the mayor of the present day, their duties being of

*See *Memoir of the Rev. Edward Whitehead, M.A.*, pp. 10, 11.

a similar character, though, of course, not so extensive. Bolton had then two constables. However, their importance in the town warranted them having seats in the Parish Church; whether such should be provided out of the ordinary Church-ley was a matter of dispute between the warden and the parishioners.

In April, 1681, James Rhodes, jun., was appointed churchwarden, supported by five others who represented some of the adjacent townships. In the following June an assessment was made on the whole parish for £24 6s. 8d., but for what purpose does not appear. There was also a balance from the previous warden of £6 13s. 1¾d. placed in the hands of Mr. Rhodes. It was usual for each warden to furnish a statement of accounts on retiring from office at the end of the year. Mr. Rhodes accordingly produced his balance sheet, but one item was questioned by the parishioners, and on that account a special meeting was called in the following terms:—"May 11th, 1682.—Whereas James Rhodes, junior, late churchwarden of Bolton, did the day abovesaid bring in his account the summe of nine pounds ten shillings for the erectinge of a pew in the Church of Bolton for the constables of Bolton, which upon publicke notice of the parishioners to meete this [blank] day in the Church and chappells of the said parish, the parishioners then mett to except against the said charge as no part to bee allowed as his said account when produced will witness." The signatures of eleven parishioners are appended to the above notice. What the results of the meeting were is not recorded, but it is a significant fact that James Rhodes, junior, was never more appointed one of the Church officers. It is very probable that, seeing his mistake in the lavishness of his expenditure, he gave the pew to the constables of Bolton for all time; and to make this known to posterity he fixed a brass plate upon the pew back, of which a rubbing has been taken, as the accompanying engraving will show (Fig. 20).

In course of time the town of Bolton was incorporated, with a Mayor and Council to conduct the affairs formerly devolving upon the "Constables." The custom of attending the Parish Church in their official capacity was continued by the new rulers, and they appropriated, as a matter of course, the constables' pew, which had been so "lavishly" erected close to the western wall by Churchwarden Rhodes.

Another pew under the west gallery was also interesting as bearing the subjoined letters cut in relief on the back :—

I H · I L · W K · I B · I B · I M · 1686.

These are simply the initial letters of the churchwardens' names, except in the last case, which appears to be an error. The implied names are :—"John Haulgh (Bolton), James Longworth (Harwood), William Kirshawe (Turton), John Barlow (Edgworth), John Brownlowe (Rivington), and Henry Markland (Blackrod).

Fig. 20.

A pew on the north side of the Church also bore the engraved initials of the wardens :—

"I C · I H · I H · I O · T E · I H · 1698."

Namely :—Joseph Crompton (Bolton), James Heaton (Harwood), James Holt (Turton-cum-Longworth), James Orrell (Edgworth), Thomas Entwisle (Rivington), and James Hodgekinson (Blackrod). The two strips of oak containing the initials as given above are now deposited in the Monument Room in the Church tower.

Amongst the faculties obtained from the Bishop of Chester for the confirmation of seats or pews in the Old Church was one belonging to the Rev. Samuel Lever, of Wigan, and John Haslam, in the middle aisle, between the pulpit on the east and George Bradshaw's pew, and adjoining Vicar Morrall's seat. This pew was confirmed to Mr. John Moss, woollen draper, as proprietor of a certain ancient messuage known as Throp's House, in Bradshawgate. This faculty was granted 8th February, 1733. A second, dated 18th of the same month, related to a seat in the north aisle which was transferred to the same Rev. Samuel Lever. Another, dated 26th April, 1735, was granted to Richard Clough, owner of Moss Hall, Lostock, and Ralph Pendlebury, owner of an estate formerly part of the said Moss Hall estate. On January 3rd, 1737, a seat on the south side of the middle aisle was confirmed to Pierce Starkie, Esq., as owner of an ancient messuage or burgage situate on the north side of Deansgate. Two other faculties worthy of brief notice were obtained. The first, dated 20th October, 1746, by Samuel Crooke, Esq., one of the Lords of the Manor of Bolton, "as owner of a certain messuage known by the name of the Swann Inn," to "take up and remove two forms or stalls, and in the room thereof to erect one handsome and convenient pew." The other was to Thomas Nabbs, chapman, of Bolton, as owner of a considerable estate in the town. This was dated 17th July, 1755, and sanctioned the removal of a "certain old stall or form, situate on the south side of the middle aisle," and in the place thereof he also was to erect a handsome and convenient pew.

The roof of the nave was flat, but pleasing to the eye. It was formed of massive beams of oak (almost blackened by age), ribbed, pannelled, and bossed. The bosses were all more or less rudely carved in various devices, principally of a floral character. One boss had the representation of an ass cut upon it, symbolical of Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The sacred monogram "I.H.S." was upon another; whilst the third bore the initials "A.S.," which memorialised the Rev. Alexander Smythe, Vicar of Bolton, in whose time the beam would be inserted. A fourth simply gave the date "1714," which made the time of its erection indisputable. A star and the sun with surrounding and expanding rays were illustrated on another; and last, but perhaps the most

important, as being the centre boss in the chancel roof, was a carving of the Three Legs of Man, with the representation of an axe with a most formidable blade (Fig. 21). This shows that it

Fig. 21.

had been inserted after the execution of the Earl of Derby in 1651—at what period, unless it was at the general restoration during the beginning of the eighteenth century, there is no

Fig. 22.

Fig. 23.

Fig. 24.

positive information. Mr. John Owen, of Stockport, fortunately took a rough sketch of the Derby boss when it lay in the churchyard, from which the foregoing engraving is taken, and it was made somewhat uniform with the others. Figures 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 are illustrations of other bosses.

The foregoing particulars prove that the beams were erected at different periods just as the exigencies of the case demanded, and that the timbers were not all to be dated from the time the Church was erected. In 1712 it was ordered that a new beam be inserted, by decision of the vestry meeting, and

Fig. 25.

Fig. 26.

so late as 1768, according to the churchwardens' book, a charge was made upon the parish for a "new beam over the Communion table."

The corbels of the chancel roof were very ancient, and apparently older than the other timbers of the Church (Figs. 27 and 28). On one of them were the heads of a king and queen, very rude; on another the figure of an archer on one side, and of a tun or barrel on the other. This would seem to have been a Rebus on Bolton, and intended to represent the name. The human figures were as rude and ugly as some of the proverbial African deities. The workmanship was probably of the Perpendicular Period.

The *Magna Capella*, or great chancel, was uniform with the body of the Church, possessing an embattlement to the right and left, and covered with lead. The interior walls round the Communion table were wainscotted with oak, whilst the walls above, and the roof, were ornamentally painted.* It was handsomely set round with fourteen ancient stalls of massive oak—seven on each side—in the manner of cathedral or collegiate churches. Four of the stalls were appropriated, one to the Vicar on the south side and facing the east; a second to the Isherwoods, who were formerly owners and occupiers of the Manor House,

Fig. 27.

Fig. 28.

on the northern bank of the River Croal; a third to the Earls of Derby; and a fourth to the Bartons of Smithells. Formerly—say about the middle of the 18th century—Edward Byrom represented the Barton family. and Nathaniel Isherwood that of the Isherwoods. At that time James Moss appropriated one or more of these stalls, and the remainder of the fourteen were used by the parishioners.

* At a vestry meeting held 17th May, 1711, it was agreed "that the Communion Table be railed in, and the end of the sides of the chancell bee wainscotted as has beene heretofore, and that the sume of one hundred and forty pounds bee assessed and levied vpon the inhabitants of the said parish. . . and for other repairs and charges of the said church,"

During the early part of the Rev. Thomas Bancroft's vicariate, beautifully carved wood canopies surmounted the antiquated stalls of the chancel, and an artistically cut oaken screen separated the chancel from the nave. The removal of these quaint ornamentations was effected by faculty, when the pulpit was removed to make room for the north gallery.

Fig. 29.

The finials of the chancel stalls (Fig. 29*) were carved in character with the timbers of the roof, as were also the three

* One measures 4ft. 7in. long, 15¼in. across the widest part, and 15in. across the arms; and the subject probably represents either the holding of the Two Tables of Stone or God's Holy Writ by two angels in a semi-kneeling posture. There are five finials preserved in the tower.

misereres beneath the seats used by the Vicar, Lord Derby, and the Bartons. The style and workmanship of these objects dates probably from about the middle of the 15th Century. The first of these represented a clothed angel, apparently dressed in a long cloak, with a "stand-up" collar and Bishop-sleeves. The head was covered with thick flowing hair, bound on the forehead with a band, and falling in curls upon the shoulders. The figure had outspread wings, and carried a blank shield on the breast. The hands are well carved, and the whole is in a fair state of preservation (Fig. 30). The Derby *miserere* (Fig. 31) gave a very rude representation of the Stanley crest—the Eagle and Child—about the origin of which a remarkably curious tradition has been preserved by Mr. Thomas Barritt, a leading Manchester

Fig. 30.

antiquary, who died early in the present century.* The following lines, though uncouth in the extreme, are exceedingly quaint, and may here meet the eye of some reader particularly interested in the subject:—

"Amongst the strange tales we in Lancashire tell,
Not one of the least at Lathum befell.
An eagle, which nested in Lathum's great park
Brought to it one night a fine boy in the dark.
It was found by Sir Thomas. It looked well and faire,
And by him adopted as Lathum's rich heir.
Sir Thomas no son had, which saddened his life,
So put this sly trick on the lady his wife.

* These lines have been supplied by Mr. J. A. Eastwood, of Manchester, from an original MSS. vol. in the handwriting of Thomas Barritt, dated 1807.

He told her 'twas Providence, so good and so kind,
To send him an heir just right to his mind.
The child was his 'love-got,' as neighbors did tell,
Begot on a maid named Mary Hoskatell.
At length Thomas's daughter was John Stanley's bride;
Became the true heir, and set the bastard aside.
So until this time, though sprung from a jest,
The 'Eagle and Child' is Lord Stanley's crest."

In Wraysholme Tower (at a very early date the property of the Harringtons) there are three diamond-shaped windows curiously designed. On the first is the monogram "O.H.," belonging to a member of the Harrington family; on the second is the representation of an eagle's claw; and the third gives a rude picture of an eagle and child, the infant lying in something

Fig. 31.

like a shrub or nest.* The two last-mentioned designs clearly show intermarriage of the Harringtons and the Stanleys.

The only other *miserere* (Fig. 32) belonged to the Bartons

Fig. 32.

* W. O. Roper's *Churches, Castles, and Halls of North Lancashire*, vol. 1, p. 98.

of Smithells Hall, and illustrated the crest of the family, *i.e.*, a twig of oak with an acorn in an upright position. An illuminated rebus on this old local name may still be found in the east window at Smithells Chapel, viz., an arrow (or bar) and a barrel (or tun), hence "Bar-ton." The same duplicate emblems are used also as applying to "Bolt-tun" (Bolton).

It is pleasing to record that during the year 1888 three of the old stalls with the three *misereres* above described and the stall end were carefully and excellently cleansed of the thick coats of paint and fixed in the chancel of the Ormrod chapel (at the south-east end of the present Church), as permanent seats for the officiating clergy. This was done at the suggestion and under the supervision of the Vicar—Canon Atkinson, M.A., D.C.L.,—who has also caused the old Communion table (with its beautifully twisted supports) and the lectern from the late Church to be placed in the same chapel.

The chancel of the Old Church contained the vault of the Bartons and Bellasyses of Smithells. Sir Rowland Bellasys was the last of the family buried there, an event that took place on the 30th August, 1699. It is related that his funeral was carried out by torchlight, and that the whole interior of the chancel was lighted with candles, forming a scene of such impressive grandeur that it was a theme of conversation in Bolton for more than a century afterwards.

About three feet below the floor, and immediately beneath the Communion table, there was another large vault, extending the whole width of the chancel. It was formerly approached by a stone staircase from the south side, and entered by a doorway from the churchyard as well as from within. For generations past this vault had been forgotten, and it was only during the demolition of the Old Church in 1866 that it was again discovered, and identified as belonging to the ancient family of Andertons of Lostock, who were for a long period the lessees of the Rectory estates. There were two quaint arched windows or embrasures in the eastern wall visible from the outside. These had been filled in with stone, probably at the time when the vault was abandoned, and the burials ceased. The following are the later burials in the chancel of the family, as extracted from the Parish Registers :—

"Francis Anderton, of Lostocke, sonne of Sir Charles, 23 September, 1678."

"Christopher Anderton, of Lostock, gentleman, intra magna capella, 14 December, 1619."

A curious circumstance (told to the writer by the Rev. Canon Powell) occurred during the excavation of the Anderton vault. The workmen came upon a ledge in the eastern wall of the tomb, on which rested a coffin containing a human body in such a perfect state of preservation that it seemed to have been but recently interred. The coffin lid was easily removed because of its decayed state, when the form and features of the inanimate body became distinctly visible. The figure was tall, the head finely shaped, and the teeth sound, but apparently aged. The *coup d'œil* gave the impression that the remains were those of a fine, well-grown, and aristocratic-looking man. Canon Powell, who was instantly apprised of the discovery, was present. As the earth was gradually removed, a curious transformation occurred. In two or three minutes after being exposed to the air the remains of the apparently solid body melted off into the appearance of a figure covered with transparent gauze, and the next moment, ghost-like, it completely vanished away, leaving only the bare dust and the remains of the coffin which contained it. On the latter being touched it crumbled into pieces, and nothing remained except some small fragments of bone and the metallic fittings of the coffin. The coffin was of massive oak, not of usual coffin design, but more the shape of a coffer or large oblong box. The lid was on hinges, and fastened with three locks, one of which was secured with the bolt in it. The handle was massive, and of iron, and fixed with brass-headed nails. The bones were gathered up and buried in the soil, and the locks and handles preserved. One large double tooth was saved by way of curiosity, and is now safely deposited in the tower. It measures five-eighths of an inch long and seven-eighths of an inch in circumference. This is not the largest tooth exhumed that has come under the writer's notice. In 1773, in Haughton Churchyard, in the parish of Darlington, a large skeleton was found, during digging operations, with teeth measuring two and a half inches long and one and a half inches broad.

It may be stated that the Andertons buried under the Communion table were Roman Catholics, and, as lessees of the Rectory estates, had the right of burial there. When the vault

was discovered and laid bare, as just described, the Anderton family expressed a desire to place a marble stone over the spot, but permission was refused by the Vicar (Canon Powell) and the churchwardens.

An interesting letter has come to light, written by Vicar Haddon, in 1693, anent the tombstone of Sir Charles Anderton in the chancel, which is here given *in extenso* :—

ffor the Right Reverend ffather in God Nicholas, Lord Bp. of Chester, at his Palace in Chester.

May it please yr. Lordship,—Mr. Green & Mr. Briggs have been with me, about placing a Tomb-stone, ore Sr. Charles Anderton's grave, telling me that I am ordered to make a report to your Lordship of the convenience or inconvenience of their proposalls, which is to have it raised above the level of the floor, and environed with a grate, to preserve it from being trampled upon and defact. I have viewed the place, & find that Sr. Charles Anderton was buried close up to the Eastern window, exactly in the middle of the Chancell, where the Communion-table stands usually in all Churches, & where such a tomb is generally indecent & inconvenient. But our Chancell is at present out of order, the floor upon one levell, the Communion Table standing in the midst, & no rails, & thus it has been ever since the late warrs; so that if they set a tomb no higher than the floor of the Chancell will bee raised to, when it shall bee reform'd & put into a more decent postr., or then to be sunk to its level, & the grate removed, when railes are set up it will be no present prejudice to the usage or decencie of the Chancell, & if the reason of this present allowance bee entered into the Church-book, & signed by the executors, it will bee no obstruction to the uniforming & beautifying the Chancell hereafter, this will answer their end by preserving the monument, & if this is all they desire, I see no good reason but that your Lordship may allow it. Your Lordship's resolution is desired by them, so soon as your occassions will permitt, after all this I shall add no farther trouble upon the perticular account of

Your Lordship's most obliged & dutifull servant,

P: HADDON.

Bolton, Aug: 14, 1693.

The decision of the Bishop in this case does not appear, neither is there any record of the fulfilment of the desires of Sir Charles Anderton's executors in the "Church-book," hence it may be understood that the matter was allowed to stand in abeyance.

There were two other vaults, one of the Rev. Peter Haddon, who was Vicar from 1691 to 1723, and the other of the Rev. Thomas Morrall, who succeeded him to 1740, in front of the Communion table. The former, when opened, was entirely empty; the latter contained a few small fragments of wood only. On the south side of the Communion table was a grave, covered with a flat stone, which bore the inscription, "Mr. Henry Woods, Lecturer of this Church, 169—," with other words apparently obliterated. Mr. Woods was Lecturer in 1696 and 1697, and probably the record on this stone gave the time that he had filled the office of Lecturer.

CHAPTER XVIII.

BOLTON OLD PARISH CHURCH (CONTINUED).

A Protracted Dispute—Vicar Whitehead and his Parishioners—Lord George Kenyon an Arbitrator—Statement by the Vicar: Interesting Details—Testimony of Old Boltonians—Case for the Parishioners—Judgment.

ABOUT the year 1764 a question arose as to the liability of the Vicar to repair the chancel, which was at that time showing signs of decay or neglect.

There was a long and protracted dispute upon the point between the Vicar (Rev. Edward Whitehead) and his parishioners. The former contended that the parish should repair, and the latter that such work should be done at the Vicar's expense—not as an obligation binding upon him as Vicar, but as the person beneficially interested in the Rectory estate. The parishioners submitted, further, that notwithstanding the formal augmentation of the Vicarage in 1740 to £36 a year, the Vicar took the profits of the said estate. Considerable evidence was adduced on the question, and the arguments of both sides were ultimately submitted to the same counsel—Lord George Kenyon—of Peel Hall, Little Hulton—who signed the respective documents on the 2nd June, 1764. Notwithstanding the clause in the lease dated 20th June, 34th Elizabeth, shewing that the Rector was then chargeable with the cost of repairing the

chancel, proof was given that the parishioners in general had "time out of mind repaired the chancel or any part thereof," and that the Bishop of Chester (as Rector) and his lessees had not. The case terminated in favour of the Vicar, and from that time to this the costs of all such necessary repairs have been paid by the annual assessments upon the whole parish, or by the voluntary subscriptions of the parishioners.

The evidence taken on the occasion is somewhat voluminous, but exceedingly interesting, and throws considerable light on how the affairs of the Church at that time, and in earlier days, were conducted, and also forms an historical summary of the past relative thereto.

The Vicar, in laying down his case to Counsel, gives a very clear and intelligible account of the question of tithes, the architectural formation of the Church, the contents of the chancel, and the customs of the parishioners, and so much information is contained therein that it would be very unwise to omit giving a literal transcription of the document :—

The Rectory of Bolton was formerly appropriate to a Prebend in the Cathedral Church of Litchfield, afterwards to the Archdeaconry of Chester, now to the Bishoprick of Chester, & has been held Lease under the Archdeacons and Bishopricks of Chester by gentlemen of family and property in the parish and neighbourhood of Bolton upwards of 200 years. In the Bishop's Lease all Tithes Rectorial and Vicarial are granted to his lessee. And from a rental of the tithes extracted from the Archives of Litchfield, 1305, it appears that all the Parish at that time paid tithes in kind, and that the tithe of hay and corn thro' the Parish would amount to near £1000 per an. ; but thro' customs and prescriptions of antient standing the tithes of this extensive parish are now of very small value. Sixteen townships & part of the seventeenth pay only small prescriptions amounting in the whole to £11 6s. 5d. yearly ; and both great & small tithes thro' the whole Parish do not raise at present more than £90 per annum. Several gentlemen who pay small prescriptions for tithe corn now collect it in kind of their tenants. Mr. Moss, in particular, Lord of the Manor of Little Bolton, some years ago endow'd a Chappell of Ease, erected within his own Township, with the tithe corn yearly growing therein ; which the Curate now enjoys.

There are other customs in the Parish as ancient and as unaccountable as the payment of these prescriptions in lieu of tithes. For notwithstanding by the custom of England the Rector is bound to repair the Chancel, and there is a covenant in the Bishop's lease for his lessee to repair the Chancel of Bolton Church. Yet it hath been the usage and custom time immemorial for estates of particular persons to repair the walls & windows, and the Parish the floor & roof. And for the glebe lands & tithes to contribute in common with other estates in the Parish to the repairs of the Church.

The Chancel is built uniform with the body of the Church, the whole being covered with one entire covering of lead, with a battlement above, to the right and left of the main Chancel. Latticed out from the body of the Church are two small Chancels—one the property of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, bart., the other of Edward Chetham, Esq. The great Chancel is handsomely set round with fourteen ancient stalls or seats in the manner of Cathedrall or Collegiate Churches, the walls round the Communion Table are wainscotted with oak, the Altar Piece beautifull, the walls above the wainscoat and the roof are ornamentally painted. One only of the said stalls is claimed by the Rector, one by Lord Derby, one by Edward Byrom, Esq., one by Nathaniel Isherwood, Esq., and one or more by James Moss, Esq. The rest of the stalls are used by the parishioners in common. Mr. Moss and Mr. Isherwood claim burial ground under the Chancel floor—the former on the south, the latter on the north-side ; and under the Communion Table there appears to be an ancient vault with two small windows or air holes on the outside of the east-end wall, the property of the late Anderton family, now of the Blundells. The said wainscoat, Altar Piece, and all the other ornaments

were fixed up and are kept in repair by the Parish, the Chancel roof and floor have, likewise, from time immemoriâl been repaired by the Parish. The north wall and window have been constantly kept in repair by the ancestors of the sd. Mr. Isherwood; his ancestor (Mr. Bradshaw) about 30 years ago built a new buttress to the sd. wall; and about 15 years ago cased with mortar the mullions and frame of the window.

The opposite window in the south wall hath been constantly repaired by the ancestors of the said Mr. Moss, who in the same year repaired the stone work of the said window by casing it with mortar. There has been no late repair of the wall, but always reputed to belong to his estate to repair.

The East window and wall have in like manner been constantly repaired by the ancestors of the said Mr. Blundell. The late Sr. Francis Anderton took down part of the wall and put in an entire new window about 55 years ago, and it was cased at the time with the other windows by the said family.

In the south-east corner of the said Chancel, betwixt Mr. Blundel's and Mr. Moss's windows, a winding stone staircase goes up to the top of the leads with a handsome cupola over it—the key of the door of which has been always kept by the sexton,—and the said stairs have been constantly used and occupied by the Parish as a road to the top of the Church, for repairing the said leads and roof.

In the old Parish Book upwards of 100 years ago there is a charge in the Churchwardens' Accounts of seven pounds for mending the lock of the leads' door. In the year 1738, or thereabouts, the then Churchwarden here pointed with mortar the cupola and filled up the cracks in the walls of the said stair-case. And about 12 years ago some other small repair was done at it by the order of the Churchwardens, particularly taking out a decayed stone and putting in a new one. The said south-east corner being weakened by the said stair-case, and through length of time is now become ruinous and decayed.

The statements contained in the foregoing account are in the main supported by the evidence of aged witnesses of the day, and as many of these depositions are particularly noteworthy, a brief summary of them will perhaps be appreciated :—

JOHN HORROBIN, of Bolton, aged 86 years and upwards, who had resided during the major part of his life in Bolton, remembered the late Mr. Haddon being Vicar in 1711, when most part of the leads were stripped off the Church and chancel, and re-leaded at the expense of the parish, as well as the insertion of two beams of timber, one in the Church, and the other next to the east window in the chancel. He deposed to Sir Francis Anderton repairing the east end of the chancel wall and window; also to knowing Sir Charles Anderton, who was a justice of peace in the reign of King James II. He remembered Sir Charles being buried under the Communion table in the chancel.

JAMES BURGESS, of Bolton, aged 73, corroborated the above statement.

WILLIAM SWEETLOVE, of Bolton, aged 76 years and upwards, also remembered Sir Charles Anderton being buried in the chancel, and that there was a marble stone intended to have been laid over him. On one side of the chancel there were formerly three "basons or ffaunts," which he believed were destroyed about the wardenship time of Mr. Smith and Mr. Mars-

den, when the Altar piece was beautified and the wainscotting done —this being in 1711 and 1712. He never heard that any Vicar ever repaired the chancel. When Mr. Lever was Vicar he (the vicar) built the Vicarage House, but was not able to finish it himself, whereupon the parish paid double surplice dues, which custom had ever since prevailed. A great many years previously the stone work of the whole Church and chancel was chipped, but how it was paid for he knew not. He remembered Sir Rowland Bellasis of Smithells being buried under the Vicar's stall.

JAMES ROTHWELL, clerk (Vicar of Deane), aged 74 years or thereabouts, was intimately acquainted with Mr. Haddon when Vicar of Bolton, and had heard it said that before the "Grand Rebellion, which was in the time of Oliver Cromwell," the Andertons of Lostock had a lease of the Rectory and Vicarage, and that they also claimed the east window. That immediately after the Restoration one Dr. Wilkins was made Bishop of Chester, and that Sir Orlando Bridgeman, then Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of Great Britain, requested from the Bishop a lease of the Rectory and Vicarage and the glebe lands thereto belonging, and Sir Orlando then set forth that the same were in the hands of a Roman Catholic, and that he (having a very considerable estate in and about Bolton and being a Protestant) prayed a lease thereof for himself, which was granted to him and still continued in the family, but the particulars of such lease were not known to him.

JOHN KAY, of Lostock, aged 82 years, said that the east window of the chancel was always repaired by the Lostock family of Andertons. As to the repair of the wall he would not speak to it "any further than that it was a silly question to ask him who the repair of the wall belonged to, as the window belonged to Lostock." He asked, therefore, "could the window hang in the air?"

JAMES COOP, of Bolton, aged 72 or thereabouts, said that Mr. Kellet, steward of Sir Francis Anderton about 50 years previously, gave orders for the repair of the east window, and ordered new mullions to be put into the same window. He had been informed that Sir Francis had offered to settle £10 a year for ever to the Church if the churchwardens would permit him to fix a marble stone in the chancel, but they refused, "alledging it looked too like Popery."

WILLIAM WALMISLEY, of Bolton, aged 71 years and upwards, said there was a tax of £150 through the parish two years together for completing the work of laying a new chancel floor, plaistering the walls, putting up two new beams, and other repairs. He was present when the vestry book was signed by some of the parishioners, and remembered that only one—James Lomax, a shoemaker—refused signing the book, but for what reason he knew not. Mr. Shuttleworth, a member of Parliament, offered to procure a "briefe" for the parish, but Mr. Marsden and other gentlemen refused, saying that the parish was able to do it. Alexander Kay was employed to do the work. John Whittle, the late sexton, kept the key of the leads door, as did his predecessors, John Taylor and George Norris.

THOS. SHIPPHARD, of Bolton, gentleman, aged about 70 years, also spoke to Sir Francis Anderton making a thorough repair of the east window, during the time of his (Shipphard's) clerkship.

JAMES TONG, of Bolton, aged 68 years, was one of the workmen employed in putting up a beam in the Church. In 1714, when Robert Lee, a reedmaker, was churchwarden, a beam was put up in the chancel at a cost of £5, paid for by the parish; as was also the cost of stripping off the lead from the roof by a Mr. Brown, of Wigan. The new lead was cast in the Church Bank. Tong was one of the men employed in making the frame in which to cast the lead.

ELLIS CROMPTON, of Lostock, aged 47 years, was told by Henry Schofield, a servitor to the stonemasons engaged in the work, that the people of Lostock repaired the east window and put in the new mullions, but that they refused to put in the key-stone or centre stone of the arch at the top of the window, and that Mr. Haddon, then Vicar, paid the workmen two shillings, and gave them a tankard of ale, for putting in the said stone.

JOHN ROTHWELL, of Bolton, carpenter, aged 65 years, who had lived in the parish 46 years, 23 of which he had been tenant to the Vicar on the glebe lands, stated that he had been employed as a journeyman and master carpenter ever since he came into the parish on the Church work. He had also filled the capacity as churchwarden, and never remembered the Vicar repairing the chancel, roof, or leads. In the year that the Church Bridge was

built (which would be about 30 years previously, *i.e.*, 1734), John Rawsthorne, of Turton, stonemason, erected a battlement or buttress on the north side of the chancel, adjoining Mr. Bradshaw's (then of Marple, Cheshire,) north window, by the order of Mr. John Pimlott, nephew and steward to Mr. Bradshaw, who also paid for the work.

ISAAC BOLTON, of Tonge-with-Haulgh, fulling miller, aged 70 years, first came into the district about 47 years before, along with James Lord, a fuller, and in the year 1720 he married Lord's daughter. Bolton had several times been churchwarden and sidesman for the parish, in which offices he had frequently "saudered" the leads over the chancel at the Parish expense. He remembered hearing his father-in-law (who was a very old man) say that the south wall and window of the said chancel were the property of Mr. Marsden, then of Bolton, and by him constantly repaired.

ROBERT ROSCOE, of Bolton, white-limer, aged 63 years, said that about 15 or 16 years before he was employed by Philip Bury, churchwarden, to plaister the windows belonging to the body of the Church; and he at the same time plaistered the chancel window by the direction of the Lostock family, who paid him for the work. He was paid for plaistering up the cracks of the other chancel windows by the stewards of Mr. Chetham, of Castleton, Sir John Bridgeman, and Mr. John Moss; and Mr. Pimlott, steward of Mr. Bradshaw, of Marple.

Edmund Wood, of Turton, aged 63 years; William Aspinall, of Lostock, aged 58 years; John Longworth, of Bolton, plumber and glazier, aged 36 years; John Tong, of Bolton, aged 35 years; Thomas Johnson, of Bolton, gent., aged 84 years; and John Horrocks, of Bolton, aged 45 years, all gave similar testimony as mentioned in the evidence of the foregoing witnesses.

In addition to calling the evidence of living witnesses, the Vicar supplied, or "put in," the copy of a letter addressed by the Rev. Peter Haddon (Vicar 1691 to 1721) to Sir John Bridgeman, supposed to have been written during a former dispute about the same liabilities. It reads:—

Bolton, Augt. 17: 1713. Sr.,—When you was last at Bolton you enquired to whom belonged the repairing of the Chancel roof. Since I have no hopes of seeing you before my journey to Scarborough, I have, therefore, sent you the best account I can yet give of that matter. When I first came to this Parish I found that the Churchwardens did, and had all along (as far as I can

learn), repaired the Church* leads, and that the last thing which seemed to have been done at the timber, which was clipping a Beam with Iron, was done and paid for by the Churchwardens, costing about £5. This was, I confess, a surprising custom not to be found in the neighbouring parishes; but then I quickly observed another as uncommon as that (vizt.), the Glebe paying to all the repairs and all other charges of the Church. How these unusual customs arose I could never learn; but I found other customs as strange, and which are about £4 per ann. to my loss, and to the gains of those who pay Church Leys. And tho' I could, yet hitherto I have been very loth to break in upon them, tho' it had been by this time £80 advantage to me, a sum which wo'd more than have repaired the Chancel roof, had that duty been mine. I'le mention two or three particulars, as my providing wine at Easter Communion for the Parish Church and Blackrod, tho' an Act of Parliament of but 51 years standing, orders the Bread and Wine to be provided by the Curate and Churchwardens at the charge of the Parish. In all the old Easter Rolls I find every one paid one penny in lieu of Tithes of Hay, even as low as about 40 years past; but that penny being dropt some years before I came to be Vicar, I have never required it; as also an halfpenny for every Communicant (viz. :) of every person above sixteen years of age. Customs or prescriptions have been frequent and long growing in the parish, for among other writings and deeds in my hands relating to the Rectors of Bolton, I have one attested by the Dean and Chapter of Litchfield (under their seal to whom Bolton was a Prebend) which gives a particular account of the Corn Tithes of every Hamlet in the parish, to whom or where laid up, and valued by their agent, yet now all but Darcy Lever, Bolton, & Blackrod have contracted prescriptions. Later than that there is a deed whereby one (who is a ley payer) is said was then Lord of Entwisle, Turton, and Edgworth, farmed the corn & hay tithe, hemp & fflax, calves, wool, and lambs, pigs and geese, which shall yearly commence and grow within the said places. Since then they prescribe. But I no more know when or how these customs arose than those of the Glebe paying to the Church charges and the Parish to those of the Chancel. But when customs are contracted, tho' they seem unreasonable & unaccountable, yet they to whose benefit they are, are very willing to stick to them, so that I shall take it as a very great unhappiness to be forced to rifte into these matters, or make any alteration from what I found & have hitherto practised; tho' I cannot but think it looks unkindly towards me that the Parish should grumble to do the same for a Protestant Minister as they did numerous years chearfully for a Popish Gentleman, especially when I have above 20 years eased them of what was exacted from them. Yet I am resolved if Disputes do arise it shall not be said they were begun by Sr, yr humble servt., P: H:

The case framed by the parishioners was based entirely upon documentary evidence, commencing with an indenture of lease of the Prebendary, Rectory, and Parish Church of Bolton and their appurtenances, dated 20th June, in the 34th year of Elizabeth's reign, and laying particular stress upon the clause in one of the subsequent leases, which recites "that the Vicar (the lessor) covenants to indemnify Mr. Bridgeman (the lessee) from all repairs of the Church and chancel, and also all other covenants in Bishop's lease to the said Mr. Bridgeman;" although, as the Vicar alleges, "there is no clause in his lease mentioning any repair of the chancel, neither would he have taken a lease with such a covenant." They also refer to Mr. Haddon's letter as submitted by the contending Vicar. "This letter," they contended, "does not appear to be signed by him, neither is it directed to any particular persons. And 'tis observable in that letter, that he cannot but think it look'd unkindly towards him that the parish shou'd grumble to do the same for a Protestant

*A marginal note to the MS. copy of this letter whence this is taken says; "The word *Chancel* is in Mr. Haddon's own letter, but by mistake copy'd *Church* by his son."

minister as they did numbers of years chearfully for a Popish gentleman, especially when he had for above 20 years eased them of what the other had extracted from them."

The judgment in the dispute was given in the handwriting of the counsel, who had acted as arbitrator. It is subjoined *in extenso* :—

The duty of repairing the Chancel does generally and of comon right belong to the Rector, and the Covts. in the several leases from Queen Elizabeth's time to 1740 are a strong evidence to maintain the charges upon the Rector and his assigns. The words of the Covt. are very strong, not barely to indemnify the Bishop from the repairs, but to repair, maintain, sustain, and uphold the Chancel in good and sufficient repair; and if the Bishop of Chester was to bring an action agt. the lessee for not repairing the Chancel I think he would recover notwithstanding any plea of prescription to the contrary; but no one can bring this action but the Bishop and his successors, who for their own sakes will hardly do it. With regard to others the Covts. can only stand as a strong proof or prescription in support of the general duty of the Rector and his lessees to repair the Chancel, but I am of opinion that if it can be made out in proof that the Parish in general have time out of mind repaired the Chancel or any part thereof, or any person or persons any part'lar parts or shares thereof, and that the Bishop of Chester as Rector, or his lessees, have never repaired the same or any part thereof, such usage or prescription of the whole or of the parts thereof respectively, will excuse the Rector and his lessees from the repair thereof.

By the evidence as stated in the case it appears that the p'ish have for a great many years backwards repaired the roof, &c., of the Chancel, and that the windows (if not the walls) have been always repaired by the three leading families of the town. And it does not appear to me that the Rector or his lessees ever repaired any part thereof; the only evidence that seems to charge any such repair only says that he was told by one Schofield, a servitor to the workmen, that Mr. Haddon pd. 2s., &c., but this hearsay evidence I take to be too weak to encounter the proof of the other side, or, indeed, not a proper proof at all.—GEO : KENYON, Peel, June 2d, 1764.

CHAPTER XIX.

BOLTON OLD PARISH CHURCH (CONTINUED).

The Stained Glass Windows—Memorials to Canon Slade and William Bolling, Esq.—Vicars Interred within the Parish Church—Cenotaphs to the Memory of Edward Richardson, John Taylor, Peter Drinkwater, Vicars Whitehead and Bancroft, Captain Kearsley, Benjamin Hick, Lieutenant Knowles, James Bradshaw, Major Poyntz, Ralph Fletcher, Christopher Mason, and John Popplewell.

RESUMING our description of the late Parish Church interior: The sacred edifice was well lighted, principally by a series of mullioned windows built round the body and gallery walls, as well as by those in the clerestory.

The east window in the chancel of the Old Parish Church was inserted in the year 1845, at the expense of the Rev. Canon Slade, M.A., the Vicar, and of the families of Bolling and Carlile, with which he was allied by intermarriage. It was an obituary window, recording the decease of several members of the three families mentioned; it is also an exact *fac simile* of the decorated window in the north transept of Witney Church, in Oxfordshire. The window was made up of seven lights, divided in the upper portion into many small compartments. It was of stained glass of rich tints, being the work of Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle, from a design by Canon Slade. In the centre light is a representation of our Lord holding a crozier, with the Paschal lamb and banner beneath. On His left hand are St. Matthew and St.

Mark, on His right St. John and St. Luke, on the extreme left is St. Paul, and on the extreme right is St. Peter, the patron saint of the Church. All the Apostles have their appropriate emblems below, and are surmounted with rich crocketted canopies, and between the emblems and the figures are the various inscriptions. The upper part is filled with groups representing the Annunciation, the Adoration, the Crucifixion, the Entombment, the Resurrection, and the Ascension, the whole being interspersed with angels.* This is now in the north transept of the present Church.†

A testimonial window was erected by subscription to Canon Slade on resigning the Vicarate of Bolton, at a cost of £345 15s. 0½d. This was arranged in three principal lights, the centre one showing a representation of "Our Lord in Majesty," surrounded by the glory of cherubim, with the earth as His footstool. Beneath the figure of Christ is an illustration of His entry into Jerusalem, the subject having been chosen by the Committee appointed to carry out the work, because it formed the basis of the last sermon delivered by Canon Slade in the Parish Church. The two side lights are filled with illustrations of the six corporal works of mercy: "I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me." The upper light forming the apex of the window contains the Holy Spirit descending as a Dove between two cherubims. On a brass plate, measuring nearly seven feet in length, and placed beneath the window, the following inscription is engraved in old black letter style:—"To the Glory of GOD, and as a testimony to the faithful and pious labours of HIS servant, James Slade, M.A., Vicar of Bolton during thirty-nine years, this window was erected, Anno Domini, 1857. 'They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars, for ever and ever.' —*Daniel*, xii., 3."‡ This window is now on the north side of the

Notitia Cestriensis, edited by Rev. Canon Raines for the Chetham Society, vol. 19. p. 8. Also *MSS. Vol.* of the late Mr. John Albinson, in the Bolton Public Library.

†Preparatory to erecting this window a board was removed from the wall beneath the old window, where it answered as a reredos. This board contained on the front the text, "Glory be to God Most High," and on the back a date, viz., "1414" or "1442."

‡The correspondence relating to the placing of this window is preserved in the Bolton Reference Library by presentation of the Committee.

Church to the left of the chancel, being hidden from view by the organ.

In August, 1850, another window by Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, was placed in the chancel of the Old Church, by public subscription, in memory of William Bolling, J.P., M.P.* It is of three lights, with six medallion figures fringed and ornamented, in small niched arches. Each light represents two pictorial subjects referring to the life of our Lord, either as a child himself, or in connection with children. In the lower tier our Lord is shown as disputing with the doctors; in subjection to his parents at Nazareth; and, when twelve years of age, going up with his parents to Jerusalem. The upper tier represents our Lord enjoining his disciples to suffer little children to come unto Him; placing a little child in the midst of His disciples; and a group of worshipping children under the protection of three guardian angels. Each of these pictures consists of several figures, under elaborate canopies, and beneath them is the Scripture reference to each subject, in old English characters, viz., (1) "All that heard him were astonished at his understanding;" (2) "He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them;" (3) "When he was 12 years old they went up to Jerusalem, after the custom of the feast;" (4) Suffer little children to come unto Me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven;" (5) Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven;" (6) "In heaven the angels do always behold the face of my Father." Very pretty borders surround the lights, and the traceried openings in the head are filled with an elegantly arranged floral device in very brilliant glass. The pictorial subjects were, it is said, selected with especial reference to the unceasing personal interest Mr. Bolling took in the Sunday Schools connected with the Parish Church. An engraved and enamelled brass plate, bearing a shield, with the arms of the Bollings impaled with those of Slade,† surmounted by the Bolling crest accompanies the window, as does a large oblong brass plate, bearing the subjoined inscription, in Gothic characters:—"This window was raised by public subscription, in memory of William Bolling, of Darcy Lever Hall, Esquire, a

* Further notes on Mr. Bolling will be given in a succeeding part of this work.

† Crest, on a wreath; a martlet ppr.—Arms, per pale (dexter), argent, an orle of martlets within an escutcheon. Sinister argent, three griffins ppr., a chief gules.

justice of the peace, a member of parliament for this borough, a friend to the children of the poor, and an ornament to his native town. Born A.D. MDCCLXXXV. Died MDCCCXLVIII. 'Them that sleep in Jesus shall God bring with him.' " In the present Church this window occupies the east wall of the south transept.

The only other stained glass window known to be in the Old Parish Church was a smaller one. This was inserted in the ordinary window which lighted the Chetham chapel, situated at the north-east corner of the Church, and being to the left of the great chancel. The prettily-coloured glass illustrated in detail the variegated colourings and design of the Chetham Arms, and would probably have been placed in its position by the celebrated Humphrey Chetham, Esq., of Turton Tower, on his purchase of the embattled residence and estates from the knightly family of Orrells. Indeed, it is not at all unlikely that the pews, or chapel, in the Parish Church were part of the Turton estates appurtenances. Since this miniature window was taken out it has been seriously cracked, and is now almost beyond redemption. It is in the tower room, lying amongst the other fragments of past generations.

The Bolton Church itself was in former times the burying place of the principal families of the district. Indeed to so great an extent did interment within the Church prevail, that on taking down the late edifice the whole subsoil beneath the floor was found to be of the finest, and apparently human, dust. Not only were the vaults of the Andertons, the Chethams, the Bartons, the Bellasyses, and the Bradshaws there, but those of Vicars Gregge, Goodwin, Haddon, Morrall, and Whitehead. Vicar Whitehead was interred in 1789, and was the last of the Vicars interred within the Church. The two succeeding Vicars —Gilpin and Bancroft—were entombed in the churchyard, Gilpin on the northern side of the Church and Bancroft at the east end. Lecturer Woods was also buried *intra magnam capellam* in 1697.

The monuments within the Church consisted of no fewer than fourteen belonging to some older families, but none of very recent date. These were all of stone or marble; the cenotaphs were affixed to the walls.

THE RICHARDSON CENOTAPH.

The earliest of these cenotaphs bears date 1713, and is of a somewhat pretentious character. It was erected on the

northern wall beneath the gallery, and contains the following Latin inscription :—

MS.—Viri vere eximii Pietatis spectatæ Integritatis immotæ & Fidei intemeratæ nec minore Morum Probitate quam Doctrina præditi Edvardi Richardson de Tong in Com Lancastriensi, gen. In re incerta amicus fuit certus, Infimis communis, potentibus haud impar, Adeo utilem se omnibus praestitit, ut non injuria dicas multos annos ei dedere Fata quo Mortalibus benefaceret. Tandem vero aetate confectus morti succubuit 4° Idus Martii anno æræ nostræ 1713 Ætatis suæ 84.

Sacred to the memory of Edward Richardson, of Tong, in the County of Lancaster, gentleman, a truly excellent man, of tried piety, of immovable integrity and of unviolated Faith, nor less endued with probity of morals than of doctrine. He was a staunch friend in an insecure crisis, accessible to the lowest, by no means inferior to the powerful, he so proved himself useful to all that, not to speak unjustly, Fates (Providence) granted him many years that he might benefit mankind. Finally, being worn out with age, he succumbed to death on the 4th day before the Ides of March, in the year of our æra 1713, in the 84th year of his age.

THE TAYLOR CENOTAPH.

Near to the above, but more towards the chancel end, was a plain tablet bearing a fine head sculptured by Chantry, and said to be an admirable likeness of the late John Taylor, Esq., of Bradford House, to whose memory it was erected :—

In memory of John Taylor, of Bradford House, in the Parish of Middleton, who died 16th May, 1824, aged 66 years. And of Jane, his wife, who died 13th April, 1844, aged 77 years. Also of the undermentioned children of John Taylor and Jane his wife : Jane, their second daughter, who died 14th December, 1787, aged 9 months. Edward, their fifth son, who died 19th December, 1804, aged 2 years. Lawrence, their fourth son, who died 3rd May, 1817, aged 16 years. James Fowler, their second son, who died 7th May, 1821, aged 25 years. John, their eldest son, who died 21st March, 1822, aged 34 years, and Henry, their youngest son, who died 11th January, 1823, aged 19 years.—The memory of the just is Blessed.

THE DRINKWATER CENOTAPH.

On the chancel walls there were three tablets; the first to the memory of Peter Drinkwater, Esq., viz. :—

Near this Place are deposited the remains of Peter Drinkwater, Esq., of Irwell House, in this County, who departed this life the 15th November, 1801, in the 64th year of his age.

THE WHITEHEAD CENOTAPH.

The second in the chancel was to the memory of Vicar Whitehead :—

In a vault near this Place lie the remains of Edward Whitehead, A.M., who died March 9th, 1789, in the 77th year of his age. He was the constant resident vicar of this Church more than 51 years. How he discharged the duties of his sacred office and of a Magistrate the unfeigned sorrow for his loss amply testified. This tablet was erected May, 1798, by his dutiful and affectionate son, C.W., but years must pass away before it will be necessary to record his memory.

THE BANCROFT CENOTAPH.

The third cenotaph in the chancel is that to the Rev. Thos. Bancroft, and is inscribed :—

For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time nor that is measured by number of years, but wisdom is the grey hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age.

Near this place lie the remains of the Revd. Thomas Bancroft, M.A., late Vicar of this Parish, one of the King's Lancashire Preachers, Chaplain to the Right Honourable Viscount Castle

Stewart, and Justice of the peace for this County. Memory requires no tablet to record the virtues of a man who adorned every station which he filled and reflected honour on himself and his friends. His heart was the seat of the benevolent, the noble, and the warm affections. Early distinguished by superior talents, he wrought on the feelings of his hearers by his sublime aud persuasive eloquence, while his example, shining as a light in the world, adorned the doctrine of Him who preached the Gospel of Peace. In 1793 he was presented by Dr. Cleaver to the living of Bolton, and was instituted one of the King's Lancashire Preachers in 1807 by Dr. Majendie. Here for sixteen years he added to his arduous parochial duties those of a just and impartial magistrate. The evening of his life was cheerful and serene. He bore the infirmities of a lingering Palsy without a murmur, and on the 5th of February, 1811, in the 55th year of his age, received with a placid smile the summons of his Lord to enter into that holy rest where pain and sorrow and sickness will be no more, and where the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all eyes.

THE KEARSLEY CENOTAPH.

Three finely-sculptured mural tablets were placed on the north aisle wall. These were to the memory of members of three well-known families in Bolton. The first, or more westerly one, was that to Captain Kearsley. Over the following inscription is a sculptured military trophy of sword, helmet, and accoutrements:—

In memory of James Kearsley, Esquire, of New Brook House, in the Parish of Deane, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County Palatine of Lancaster, and Captain of the Bolton Troop of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry Cavalry. This tablet is erected by the Officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates under his command, in testimony of the sense they entertained of his uncompromising loyalty, and of the impartiality, firmness, and efficiency with which he commanded the troop. He died the 29th day of December, 1834, aged 54 years, and was buried at the Parish Church of Deane.

THE HICK CENOTAPH.

was the centre of the three, and is both chaste and elegant. There are two figures, finely draped, one of which bears the medallion portrait of the late Mr. Benjamin Hick, whose memory and virtues are perpetuated in the inscription:—

To the memory of Benjamin Hick, of Great Bolton, Engineer, who departed this life September 9th, 1842, aged 52. This monument is erected by a general subscription of his Workmen, in remembrance of his Christian character, and to record virtues so rare, for future imitation, that he, though dead, may live again in the spirit, action, and conduct of those, who, guided by his character, and stimulated by his example, will learn to love their neighbour as themselves, and to do good to all men. He was an affectionate husband, a kind father, and a sincere friend, alike distinguished by eminent ability, and uniform integrity. Genius, in whatever art and science displayed, ever found in him a liberal patron. He was a benefactor to this Town, where his worth will be long appreciated, and his loss deeply deplored.

Reader, whoe'er thou art, a moment stay,—
Death is the dawn of an eternal day;
The light now vanished from the path we trod,
Shall rise again amidst the hosts of God.

Though dark may seem the doom of death on earth,
Immortal glory waits on mortal worth;
The star of Faith shall from the dust arise,
For Virtue lives—when all save Virtue dies.

THE KNOWLES CENOTAPH.

This is a marble tablet of excellent workmanship, and

from its position in the Old Parish Church—being the one nearest to the east or chancel end—it must have been highly appreciated, as well by the generous subscribers as by the Vicar (Brocklebank) and his wardens and sidesmen of the year of its erection, indeed, as a matter of fact, it was within the bounds of the Knowles chapel, formerly the Chetham chapel. It was the father of the young soldier, to whom the inscribed cenotaph refers, who erected the gallery over his chapel at personal cost, and which extension met the requirements of the period for increased accommodation in seats. The marble to Lieutenant Knowles is surmounted by a military trophy, beneath which is an illuminated coat of arms, with the motto *nec diu nec frustra*. The inscription reads:—

To the memory of Lieutenant Robert Knowles, native of this parish, who volunteered, May 6, 1811, from the 1st Royal Lancashire Militia, into the 17th Regiment of Fusileers, then united with the British Army in the expulsion of the French from Spain. He distinguished himself at the taking of Cuidad Rodrigo and at Badajos, where he commanded part of a detachment appointed to storm Fort St. Roque. Such was his intrepedity that having first mounted the wall and succeeded in his enterprise, he opened the gates to the remainder of the detachment, and received command of the Fort. He behaved with much courage at Salamanca and Vittoria, at the former of which places he was severely wounded. This brave young man fell in the hard contested action at the pass of Roncesvalles, in the Pyrenees, July 25th, 1813, in the 24th year of his age. This monument is erected as a just tribute of so much heroism by his Fellow townsmen, A.D. 1816.

THE BRADSHAW CENOTAPH.

The two following tablets, memorialising Jas. Bradshaw, Esq., and Major Poyntz, were also placed on the side walls of the nave. The words upon the former read:—

Sacred to the memory of James Bradshaw, Esq., of Darcy Lever. In May, 1768, he married Ann, the second daughter and co-heiress of John Whalley, Esq., of Blackburn. She departed this life in June, 1778, aged 35 years. Her mortal remains were deposited at the foot of this pillar, when her better part was taken to inherit those rewards which are laid up in store for a life of virtue, charity, and piety. In December, 1779, he married Jane, the eldest daughter of Edward Greaves, Esq., of Culcheth, by whom he has left one son, born January, 1782. As long as tenderness in the Father, and indulgence in the Master are amiable; as long as hospitality in the gentleman, and knowledge in the scholar are esteemed; till sprightliness in conversation, and sincerity in friendship cease to claim universal regard and fortitude with patience thro' a painful and lingering illness can no longer raise our admiration of the real Christian, and claim the tear for departed worth, let the feelings of an afflicted widow (who in erecting this perishable token of lasting love records her sorrow) be remembered for the loss of the most affectionate husband, who calmly resigned his life (to Him who gave it) on the 28th February, 1804, in the 67th year of his age.

THE POYNTZ CENOTAPH.

To the memory of Major Arthur Poyntz, of the 45th Regiment of Foot, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Thomas Wingfield, of Bolton, and died at Secunderabad in the East Indies, on the 21st day of April, 1835, aged 42 years. This tablet was erected by his brother officers, as a memorial of the sentiments they entertained of the public and private worth of the deceased, and of the gallant and zealous services rendered by him to his King and country during a period of twenty-nine years.

THE FLETCHER CENOTAPH.

This is one of the most conspicuous "murals" in the collection. It was erected by public subscription, being of white marble, with a lady weeping over an urn. It occupied a position on the south wall of the Old Church. The inscription reads:—

In memory of Ralph Fletcher, Esq., of the Hollins, in this parish, who through many years of difficulty and danger faithfully served his King and his country as a Magistrate for the County of Lancaster, and as Lieut.-Col. of the Bolton Local Militia. This tablet was erected by public contribution, as a tribute of grateful respect. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them." Died Feb. 22, 1832, aged 74 years.

At the replacement of this tablet in the present Parish Church due consideration appears to have again suggested the south wall for its position. It is now accompanied by two flags of the old local militia, one sloping on either side of the cenotaph; below is a brass plate, inscribed:—

Pro aris et focis. These colours made and presented by the ladies of Bolton, were carried by the "Bolton Volunteers," raised in 1794, and sometime commanded by Lieut.-Col. Rasbotham, until the peace of Amiens in 1802, when the regiment was disbanded, and the colours were placed in the Old Parish Church. A new regiment called the Bolton Volunteer Infantry, upwards of 1,000 strong, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Ralph Fletcher, was raised in 1803, became the Local Militia in 1808, when its strength was reduced to 800, and served until the peace after Waterloo in 1815. It was last assembled for garrison duty in 1814. "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against them."—*Isaiah lix.*, 19.

A mural tablet recording the death of one of the last persons who was buried *intra magnam capellam, i.e.*, in the large chancel, is that to Mr. Christopher Mason, buried in the chancel of the Church 5th December, 1780.

THE POPPLEWELL CENOTAPH.

This marble memorial places on record many charitable bequests made by the Popplewells, formerly of Bolton, the benefits of which have been handed down to posterity even to the present day. The inscription is particularly lucid. It reads:—

This tablet records some of the noble charities of John Popplewell, Esqr., a native of this town, but late of Woodford in the County of Essex, where he died A.D. 1829, in the 73rd year of his age. By deeds taking effect at his death, he gave to the Vicar of this Parish and three other Trustees, the sum of £4500 3 per cent. reduced annuities, the interest thereof to be yearly expended in providing clothing and bread for the poor of the townships of Great and Little Bolton and Turton, under certain prescribed regulations. He gave also £2000 3 per cents. to the Grammar School of Bolton for the foundation of scholarships. And £400 3 per cents. for the repairs of All Saints' Chapel, Little Bolton. He likewise left several large sums of money to Blackrod in this Parish, for the benefit of the poor, the school, and the chapel. These charities were largely increased by Anne and Rebecca Popplewell, sisters of the above, who gave, in their lifetime A.D. 1831, £2000 3 per cents. to the poor of Great and Little Bolton; £1500 3 per cents. to the Grammar School, and a proportionate increase of the sums given to Blackrod Chapel. "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy."

CHAPTER XX.

BOLTON OLD PARISH CHURCH (CONCLUDED).

Additional Discoveries—The Tower Older than the main body of the Church: Casing to the Tower—The Clock and its Chimes—Oak Carving—Family Pews—Church Benefactors—The Font—Banners—The Communion Plate—History of the Bells—Ringers and their "Sallery"—A Novel Record of Disbursements—Noted Campanologists—Ringing for the "Packet" Company—Closing Services in the Old Parish Church: Impressive Scenes.

MANY more discoveries were made on taking down the Old Parish Church in 1866. On the removal of the roof of the south aisle there were evidences that not a few of the timbers had formed parts of an earlier roof—whether of an earlier Church is not certain. The mouldings were after the pattern of the chancel roof, which was plainer than the nave, and probably had formerly belonged to that portion of the sacred edifice.

When the organ was taken from the west gallery it was discovered that the archway in the centre of the tower did not correspond with the width of the nave, and that the tower was not in the true centre of the Church. There was a difference of

more than three feet between the tower arch and the nave wall on the one side from the other. This supports the theory that the tower was older than the main body of the Church, and that the latter had been built up to the old tower, being at the same time widened if not altogether enlarged. The tower also was found to have been cased with a layer of stone, about two feet in thickness, and done in all likelihood at the time of rebuilding or restoring the Church. The body of the edifice, however, was not square with the tower—it had a decided inclination to the south, which also lends colour to the theory that the tower alone had been left standing when the previous edifice was demolished. It is not at all improbable that the inner portion of the tower was of the Norman or Early English period.

The removal of the short stunted square turreted tower was no easy task. The outer casing was taken away without much difficulty, but the inner walls were almost immovable. They were about four feet thick, whilst the mortar was harder than the stones. During the disentegration of the tower a half-penny of William III., coined in 1700, was picked out of the mortar, near the clock, and about eighteen inches from the outside wall. The position of this coin at first appeared somewhat singular, but on deliberation the circumstance is easily accounted for. The clock chimes were attached in 1701, and it is very probable that one of the workmen employed inserted this small piece of current money.

It may be taken for granted that the clock was originally inserted in the tower about the year 1671. At all events such may be inferred from entries in the Vestry Book now preserved at the Church. From these records it appears that a general meeting of parishioners of Bolton was held on the 30th June, 1671, when it was agreed "that John Lyan, of Warrington, clocksmith, makes a good clock and quarters, and to sett it vpp at his owne charge, with a ffinger board to ye streete, yard & halfe square, the figgers gilte with gould, and the ould ffinger Bord to the Church he is to adorne in ye like manner at his owne charge; the said John Lyan is to have a carpenter alowed him for a day or Tooe if Accasion bee meat whilst hee setts this clock vp, at ye parish charge, and to make it goe well, betwixt and the twentie-ninth day of September, and to vphould it for a twelve month & a day after

it bee sett vpp, at his owne charge; and for soe doing hee, the saied John Lyan, is to Receive sixteen pounds of Edward Sedgswick, churchwarden for Bolton, at or vppon the twentie-nintht day of September next." An unsigned agreement dated October 31, 1671, refers to the keeping of the clock. It reads: "I, John Lyan, clockmaker, do promise to clense the clock in Bolton Church, belonging to the towne and parish, from the first day of November, 1679, for the sume of six shillings eightpence, which he, the saied John Lyan, is to receive of the Churchwardens of Bolton the first day of November for every yeare until the same bee expired." At another vestry meeting held on the 29 Novr., 1672, it was agreed "that Robert Harpur, clark, undertake to make the clock goe orderly, strikeing duely its houres and quarters, til Ester day next insuing upon condition that 40 shillings be payd him for the yeare which then will be past." This commission was renewed on the same terms June 7th, 1676. A tax was levied June 6th, 1700, "to make ye clock handsome and good," though the chimes were not added until after a resolution of public vestry dated June 20th, 1701.*

The pillars and arches of the Church had thick coats of plaster upon them, which, when removed, disclosed some beautiful stencilling. Here and there the floral patterns were clearly discernible—the colours being at once brilliant and of great variety.

A large board was taken from the front of the organ gallery. The Royal Arms were emblazoned thereon. Upon the back the following verses were found in gilt letters:—"I will wash my hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works."—*Psalm* 26, v. 27.

The board is supposed to have been originally placed over the carved oaken screen separating the chancel from the nave, when the pulpit stood on the north side near to the Chetham Chapel. From its original position, the texts could be clearly seen from the Communion and the arms from the body of the Church.†

*The resolution reads:—"That a new piece of chime worke shall be sett up and made att the charge and cost of the said inhabitants of the said parish." Mr. John Crompton, churchwarden; Mr. William Pimlott, sidesman, and 41 parishioners signed the resolution of the vestry.

†Now preserved in the Tower. The Arms of Queen Anne were evidently the first emblazoned.

Two small antique stools were found, one with a square top, with the letters "D.M.P" studded in brass-headed nails. The other had the initials "I.W." deeply cut in the top, and "I.B., 1728," in brass nails. It has been surmised that the latter stool was for the use of Sir John Bridgeman's footman or lackey, on account of its position near Sir John's seat.

Several pieces of old oak carving were found among the various pews. Perhaps the most interesting of these was an oaken shield, handsomely cut (Fig. 33).

Fig. 33.

with the monogram "I.L." in a knot of interlacery. These initial letters refer to Rev. John Lever, vicar from 1673 to 1691, who would erect the beautifully carved canopy or wall plate of oak (if not the entire pulpit) which formed part of the pulpit when it stood adjacent to the pillar on the north side. The canopy in the latter days of the Old Church was attached to the back of the "Vicarage Pew," which occupied the site of the pulpit before its removal. The initialed shield was also suspended in the same pew.

The back of "Bradshaw Hall Pew" was signalized by the initials and date "R.E.B. 1602."

When the wooden floor within the Communion rails was taken up, another floor of white and black marble (diamond shaped) was discovered about two feet below. This early floor showed that the Communion did not formerly stretch from side to side of the great chancel, but that the rails cut it off at each end.

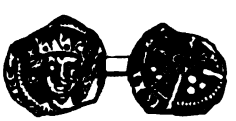
In excavating in other parts of the Church it was noticeable that almost the whole ground was of the finest or

funereal dust, though very few monuments of significance were found—the earliest being dated 1618 and 1622 respectively. One curious epitaph was recovered on a stone laid about the middle of last century near to the south porch, under the pews occupied by the ringers and the Vicar's servants. The inscription reads :—

Here lieth Mary, the beloved wife of Thomas Nabbs, who was here interred the 14th April, 1751.

Here lies interred beneath this Tomb,
One who had Rachel's beauteous face and Leah's fruitful womb,
Had Abigail's wisdom, had Deborah's upright heart,
Had Martha's care, had Mary's better part.

A small square stone was found about two feet below the surface near the vestry door, which filled up a gap in the list of Vicars of Bolton. It bore in five lines the inscription:— "164—. WILLIAM GREGG, Vicker 14 yeares." (See account of Vicar Gregg for further details). Amongst the earth in the Church one little relic was recovered in the shape of a small silver coin, damaged. It is identified as of the time of Richard III. (Fig. 34)



(Fig. 34.)

Only two brasses were found in the Church. One of these was just within the south porch, and was in memoriam of William Lightbown, of Halliwell, who had the reputation of being the builder of the porch in 1694, though there was a more ancient date over the entrance of the erection, one of 1613, which is unexplainable unless Mr. Lightbown rebuilt or made additions to it, and the old stone was replaced. The inscription on the brass was as follows :—

Here lieth Buried The Body of William Lightbown, of Hallawell, who departed this Life The 13 day of September, 1720, Aged 42. Here also B.W., who departed This Life ye 30 Day of May, 1711, Aged 40. My days are like a shadow that declineth.

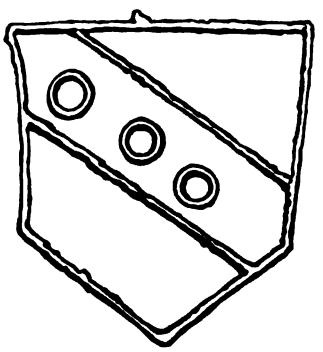
The inscription was not in good preservation, some of the letters being almost obliterated.

The state of the other brass was much better—perhaps on account of its position; it was not so exposed to the elements. The plate was attached to one of the southern pillars of the nave, in what was called the "Darcy Lever Pew," and opposite

to the place where the pulpit originally stood. It was inscribed :—

Infra deposita sunt Exuviæ Gulielmi Baguley de Oakenbottom et Kersley, Generosi, Domini de Acres in Mancunis, Viri verè probi et pii sine fuco fastre et fallacis. Obiit Dec: 31:° A: D: 1725. Ætatis suæ 56. Novissimo Testamento legavit :—Scholæ Erudiendis pauperibus in Breightmet fundandoe £200, Simili Scholoe in Mancunio fundandoe £200, Pauperibus de Kersley £50, Pauperibus de Outwood £50, Pedagogo de Ringley £40, Æditimo de Ringley £20, Ad parandum panem et vinum in Eucharistiam ibed £20, Abi, Lector et fac similitor.

Coat of Arms of the Baguley Family (Fig. 35).



(Fig. 35.)

Several lettered boards were taken from their various positions in the Church, and as some of them are worth transcribing for the purpose of placing on record, this opportunity is taken.

BOARD No. I.

The Names of the Benefactors to the Church, Par., and School of Bolton.

Anno.	C.	P.	S.
1622.—Mr. James Gosnall, of Balderstone	7 : 13 : 4	0 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
1644.—Mr. Robert Lever, of London	0 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0	600 : 0 : 0
1655.—Mr. John Seed, of Lond: a calice [chalice] ...	8 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
Mr. John Marsh, in Bolton...	0 : 0 : 0	2 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
Mr. Gest, of Abram	0 : 0 : 0	60 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
1677.—Mr. Nathaniel Hulton, of Lond: a calice	6 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
Joshua Lomax, Esqr., Sat. Albans...	1 : 0 : 0	1 : 0 : 0	5 : 0 : 0
1690.—Mr. Robert Roscoe, of Bolton	0 : 0 : 0	10 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
1691.—William Horrobin, Esqr., Kersley...	70 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
1693.—Mr. Goodwin, of Harwood	0 : 0 : 0	50 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
1696.—Mr. Blackeburn, of Oxford...	0 : 0 : 0	10 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
1686.—Mr. Thomas Boardman, of Bolton...	0 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0	5 : 11 : 5
Mr. Cheatham, of Turton	20 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
1703.—Mr. Arthur Bradley, of Bolton	0 : 0 : 0	4 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0
1704.—Thomas Lever, Esqr., of Bolton	0 : 0 : 0	30 : 0 : 0	30 : 0 : 0
1714.—Thomas Marsden, Esq., of Bolton...	50 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0	150 : 0 : 0
1630.—Mr. Adam Mort, of Astley	0 : 0 : 0	5 : 0 : 0	0 : 0 : 0

BOARD No. II.

To the Memory of Humphrey Chetham, Esqr., Founder of the Hospital and Library in Manchester, A.D. 1651, under the direction of 24 Governors for the Maintenance and Education of 60 Boys—(the number in this present year 1730), of which 15 are chosen out of Bolton and 8 out of Turton.

GOVERNORS FOR BOLTON.

A.D.		A.D.	
1651	John Tilsley, Vic: of Dean. Alexander Norres, Gent: John Okey, Gent:	1713	John Crompton, Gent:
		1714	Peter Haddon, M.A., Vic: of Bolton.
		1715	Garvis Chetham, Esqr.
1672	Thomas Lever, Esqr.	1716	Hugh Entwistle, Gent.
1684	William Earle of Derby.	1718	John Sharples, Gent.
1686	James Grundy, M.B.	1721	Thos. Morrall, M.A., V: of Bolton.
1702	James Earl of Derby.	1735	John Parker, Esqr.
1704	Thomas Marsden, Esqr.	1737	Lawrence Crompton, Gent.

GOVERNORS FOR TURTON.

A.D.		A.D.	
1651	Ralph Brook, Gent.	1697	Samuel Chetham, Esqr.
1666	James Chetham, Esqr.	1698	William Wood, Gent.
1672	Ralph Brook, Junr., Gent.	1728	John Battersby, Gent.

BOARD No. III.

FEES FOR BURIAL.

	s.	d.
to the Minister for Adults	2	
for Infants	1	
to the Clerk for Adults		6
for Infants		9
for every Passing bell, one hour		6
for Tolling one hour, common		6
To the Sexton :—		
for a grave 1½ yd. deep	2	
Do. 2 yds.	3	6
Do. 2½ „	5	
Do. 3 „	7	
for taking up & laying down a gravestone		4
For Baptising		
To the Minister		9
Clerk		3
For Marriages		
To the Minister for Banns	3	
Clerk do.	1	
To the Minister by Licence	10	
Clerk	2	

Amongst the other noticeable objects in the Old Church immediately prior to its demolition was the font of Caen stone. It was presented in 1845, by Matthew Dawes, F.G.S., of Bolton, as an obituary remembrance of his parents. It is octagonal. The design is from the ancient font of Over, in Cambridgeshire, excepting the basin panels, which, instead of containing a plain shield on each face, have perpendicular tracery on the alternate sides, and shields within cusps, said to be taken from Sir John Speke's Chantry in Exeter Cathedral, on those panels facing the cardinal points. These latter are charged with a plain cross

surmounted at the intersection by the letters I.H.S. on the east side, by the double triangle on the west, by two keys in saltire on the north, and on the south by the arms of Dawes (or, on a bend engrailed, between six battle-axes erect, azure, three swans with wings elevated, argent). The mouldings between the basin and the shaft contain in beautiful black letter type the following inscription:—"To the Glory of God, and in memory of Matthew Corr Dawes, who deceased 27th October, 1827, and of Elizabeth, his wife, who deceased 23rd October, 1825. Matthew Dawes, of Bolton, eldest son of the above Matthew Corr and Elizabeth, dedicates this font, 1845. *En Dieu est tout.*" The cover of the font is made of oak, of an ogee outline, the panels pierced with perpendicular tracery, and the ribs crocketed and terminating in a finial. The font was worked entirely by Mr. Thomas, sculptor.* This font had replaced an older one which had fallen into decay. The exterior of the basin of the older font bore the engraving of the "Time Glass," of workmanship about the time of Queen Anne.

Suspended from the walls of the clerestory on either side were four handsome silk banners—three being the colours of the Old Bolton Volunteers; the fourth, of richly embroidered silk, was presented by the then Mayor—J. R. Wolfenden, Esq., —to the Vicar (Canon Powell) as a complimentary offering to the 27th Regiment of Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, of which the Vicar was Chaplain. Some years previous to the Church demolition the old colours were taken down on account of their battered condition.

The old Communion plate is plain but handsome. It consists of two flagons, two chalices, and two salvers, all of silver, and a large silver salver. The flagons are inscribed:—"*Hoc et Alterum Dono donavit Thomas Marsden, Armiger,* 1716." The chalices bear the words:—"This and another chalice new made 1712, of a chalice given by Mr. Nath. Hulton, of London, to the Parish of Boulton, Anno Dom. 1677." The two salvers record:—"This with another salver was made (A.D. 1712) of a chalice given to Bolton Church by Mr. John Seede, of London, A. Dmi. 1655."

The foregoing are retained, and still form part of the Communion plate in the present Church, with the additions of a

Chetham Society Publications, Vol. xix., p. 8.

magnificent alms-dish of silver-gilt, "dedicated to the glory of God, for the service of the Parish Church of Bolton, by Eliza, wife of Peter Ormrod, St. Peter's Day, 1871"—the day of the consecration of the new Church; and another service of silver-gilt, consisting of a paten and two chalices, presented from funds bequeathed to the Church by Susan and Maria Jardine.

The tower contained a fine peal of eight bells, which had been augmented to that number from time to time. The great bell is supposed to have been rung from very early times. In 1699 the bells were re-cast into five; but when the other three were added is not stated in the Church papers. From an entry, dated 18th November, 1802, in the wardens' accounts of Burnley Parochial Church, the sum of £97 5s. 2d. appears to have been paid by "the Churchwarden of Bolton" for one of the old bells belonging to Burnley Church, and a bell they were disposing of prior to purchasing a new peal. The weight of this bell was 12cwts. 3qrs. 9lbs., and was cast in 1712 at York by Mr. Samuel Smith.* The present tenor bell is inscribed:—

"I to the Church the living call
And to the Grave doe summons all.
Henry Bagley made mee, 1699." Four are lettered: "Henry Bagley, of Ecton by Northampton, made mee, 1699;" another: "The Revd. T. Bancroft, Vicar, 1806. I: Rudhall, Fect:;" and two others: "John Rudhall, Glocester, Fect: 1806." The diameter of the tenor bell is 3ft. 8½in.

Many quaint entries are to be found in the churchwardens' accounts and vestry books belonging the Parish Church. Here are some of them:—

June 17, 1659.—Resolved Yt ye great Bell which now is burst, shall be maid new this year with all the speede may be. That thirty-sixe pounds be assessed vppon the parishioners of Bolton according to the antient p'portions for the new casting of the said bell, and the repaire of the walls & gate of the Churchyard, and levelling the flaggs of the Church.

April 28, 1665.—Resolved that fifty-six pounds be assessed vppon the inhabitants of the parish of Bolton for the making of a new frame for the bells, and other necessaries about the Church.

May 15th, 1666.—Resolved that £80 be assessed for the repaire of the Church walles, for a new bell & repaire of the old ones, &c.

January 29, 1668.—Resolved that William Scott, bell-founder, shall have for the new casting of the Little Bell the sum of eight pounds at or vpon the ffirst day of May next insuing.

June 26, 1668.—Resolved that James Howell, churchwarden, be authorised to give notice to the founder of the Litle Bell that he, before this day threeweekes, come to Boulton Church and give ye parishioners sufficient securitie to make good the Litle Bell accordinge to his bond, otherwise the bond to be put in sute.

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* *History of the Parochial Church of Burnley*, by T. T. Wilkinson, F.R.A.S., 1856, page 61.

August 22, 1699.—Resolved that an assessment of an hundred and forty pounds bee assessed & raised for the casting the Bells of the parish into five bells. [This resolution was practically rescinded at a meeting held on the 4th September, 1699, when it was agreed that the sum of £110, and no more, be raised for both Church repairs and newly casting of the bells.]

A meeting of parishioners was held in the vestry of the Church on the 6th June, 1700, when, amongst other things resolved upon, it was agreed that "a sett of Ringers & a sallery for them" be arranged for. This was the year before a thorough restoration of the clock and chimes was effected. The extract just given clearly implies that the year 1700 was that in which a proper peal of bells was first used at the Bolton Parish Church, and likewise that the first set of ringers was at that time appointed.

The following are entries in the Church books incident to the bells :—

	£	s.	d.
1654.—Pd. for Ringing ye 5th of November	00	01	08
Pd. for 2 bellropes and 3 hempen traces	00	08	00
1655.—Pd. to the Clarke for his wages & repaire of ye Bells	01	00	00
Pd. for Ringing the 5th of November, 1655	00	01	00
1659.—[From a/c of Roger Walkden, churchwarden] : When I made the bargaine with Jeffery Scott, the bell-founder, to cast the bell I paid a shott for beare of	00	00	09
I paid Jeffery Scott in Ralph Norres house	01	09	00
When I paid the said Jeffery Scott in Ralph Norres I paid ashott for beare of .	00	01	00
Paid more to Jeffery Scott	02	01	00
Paid for a new bell roppe	00	04	00
1660.—To John Muchell for worke done about the bell and flouringe the bell-house...	00	08	00
To George Smith, of Halliwell, for 3 new ropes & peeceinge of others... ...	00	09	03
To Abraham Holme for his charges to wigin about the bell caste	00	04	10
To John Greenhalgh, blacksmith, for mendinge the clapper and other worke about the bells...	00	07	06
1677.—A stay for a bell	00	01	00
For mending a cock for the great Bell	00	00	06
For mending the great bell head	00	15	00
Pd. for a man's paines & hyre of a horse to look for a piece of wood to be a headstocke for a bell	00	01	06
A Bell rope	00	03	02
oyle for the bells in the whole yeare 9 tymes at 4d. a tyme	00	03	00
For a box for the clapper of the little bell	00	02	06
A Rope for the great bell	00	03	08
1678.—payed to the ringers for gunpowder treason	00	10	00
1679.—Paid to James Muchell for mending wheeles of bells	00	01	00
Paid to Ringers for powder plote	00	02	06
1681.—worke dun in skrues	00	02	06
More skrueing of belles, in wegis, in cotrills	00	16	00
More for takeing the greate bell twise up an for hanging of the greate belle and for leying the greate belle step	02	05	00
More the greate belle steay	00	02	00
1685.—Payed to the Ringers for the 29th of May...	00	04	00
1689.—Pd. to the ringers May 10th for their ringing on Sabboath dayes	00	10	00
Pd. to them for ringinge on his Majesty's day of arrivall in England and the day of the anniversary deliverance of ye powder plot	00	12	00
Pd. to Thomas Horrobin for collaring greate Bell Clapper, and making three scrupins...	00	08	00
Pd. to George Holte and Gryme Smithes for hanging the third bell new ...	00	16	00

		£	s.	d.
	Paid for hoopeinge a clapperboxe, scrupins and catterels...	00	02	00
	paid for crowing of a gugon, taking vp the bell, and other things	00	05	00
	paid for steps wedgeing and a bell wheel mendinge with iron	00	05	00
	Spent on them doeing the worke	00	02	00
	Pd. to Thomas Booth for a box for ye bell clapper	00	01	06
1690.—	To Henry Sharrock for belropes	00	10	00
	To Tho: Horrobin for coloring great bell clapper & 3 scrupins...	00	08	00
	To Gryme & Hoult, smiths, for hanging 3 bells new	00	16	00
	ffor crowninge a gud : on taking vpp the bell and other things...	00	05	00
1691.—	Paid to the ringers at Aster and on the 5th of Novr.	00	00	06
	Paid to the ringers at severall other times...	00	16	06
1715.—	Expences and Ringers on Thanksgiving day	00	08	00
	To ringers wages for ye whole year...	03	00	00
	To ringers on ye Queen's accession	00	06	00
	To ringers on ye Queen's Coronacion	00	04	00
	To ringers on Queen's Birthday	00	04	00

A family of the name of Bromiley, of Bolton, were formerly noted for their efficiency in bell-ringing. William Bromiley, the elder, was upwards of 50 years a ringer in Bolton; he died at the age of 88 years. His sons were named William, James, John, and Thomas. One of these had possession of his bell for a term of 42 years.

Before the running of trains between Manchester and Bolton, a "packet" was worked on the Canal by the Bolton and Manchester Canal Packet Company, starting from the Wharf at the bottom of Churchbank. Passengers were regularly summoned every morning at a quarter before six o'clock by a veteran campanologist known as "Old Bob Astley" tolling one of the Parish Church bells. The Company gave him a remuneration.

A board, measuring 3ft. 6in. wide by 2ft. 9in. deep, has been preserved in the tower, which appears to have been attached to the wall inside the belfry of the Old Church. The lettering reads:—"Bolton Church, 22d. April, 1783. At a Parish Meeting herein held it is ordered by the Vicar, Churchwardens, and other Parishioners present, 'That whereas the Ringers are allowed in their turn the benefit of Tolling at Funerals, the Ringer whose turn it is shall, as soon as the corpse arrives at the Church Gates, come down out of the belfry and remain in the Church while the Funeral Service is performed, and do his endeavour to prevent noise and disturbance thro' crying children or rude and disorderly boys and mothers who too often crowd the Church on these solemnities. And that the Ringer who neglects or refuses so to do shall forfeit his said privilege.'"

Sunday, 8th April, 1866, was a memorable day to the

worshippers in Bolton Old Church, and will never be forgotten by those who were present at the last services of divine worship to be held within its hallowed precincts. During the previous fortnight daily service was performed in the Old Church, so that an opportunity of preaching therein should be given to every Incumbent in the town before it was taken down. These invitations to services were responded to by large and attentive congregations. The preachers and texts on these occasions were as follow :—

Rev. Canon Powell, March 25th, morning.—John xiv., 31.

Rev. James Slade, B.A., Incumbent of Little Lever, March 25th, evening.—Luke xxiii., 34.

Rev. T. T. Berger, B.A., Curate-in-charge of St. James's, March 26th.—Luke xxiii., 43.

Rev. F. R. Swallow, Incumbent of Blackrod, March 27th. —John xix., 26, 27.

Rev. J. G. Doman, M.A., Curate-in-charge of St. Mark's, March 28th.—Matthew xxvii., 46.

Rev. A. Birley, M.A., Incumbent of Astley Bridge, March 29th.—John xix., 28.

Rev. Charles Hind, M.A., Incumbent of St. Paul's, Good Friday, March 30th, morning.—John xix., 30.

Rev. Thos. Loxham, M.A., Rector of Great Lever, March 30th, evening.—Luke xxiii., 46.

Rev. Thos. Berry, Incumbent of Christ Church, Easter Sunday, April 1st, morning.—The Resurrection of Christ.

Rev. Canon Thicknesse, M.A., Vicar of Deane and Rural Dean, April 1st, evening.—The Resurrection of the Christian.

Rev. Walter Chamberlain, M.A., Incumbent of St. John's, April 2nd.—Christ the Prophet of His Church.

Rev. Thomas Lowe, M.A., Rector of All Saints', April 3rd.—Christ the Priest of His Church.

Rev. Joseph Lowe, M.A., Incumbent of Holy Trinity, April 4th.—Christ the King of His Church.

Rev. Neville Jones, M.A., Incumbent of St. George's, April 5th.—I. Thess. i., 9, 10.

Rev. R. C. Weston, LL.D., Incumbent of Emmanuel, April 6th.—Ephesians v., 26, 27.

The services of the closing day were those in which the greatest amount of interest was taken. The day was also

appropriated to the preaching of the annual sermons on behalf of the Day and Sunday Schools connected therewith. A procession of superintendents, teachers, and scholars to the number of 1325, was formed from the schools to the Church. The Church was full to overflowing, and the services throughout were heartily rendered by both choir and congregation. The prayers and lessons were read by the Rev. E. Warbreck, B.A., curate, the sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Powell, vicar, from Ecclesiastes, iii., 15, "God requireth that which is past." In the course of his sermon the Vicar referred to the Sunday Schools, through which, he said, it was computed that not less than 10,000 young persons had passed as scholars.

In the afternoon a service was conducted by the Rev. E. Warbreck, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Joseph F. Wright, lecturer, who founded his remarks upon I. Peter, iv., 10, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." The evening service—the last held in Bolton Old Parish Church—undoubtedly proved of the greatest interest. Numbers of the afternoon congregation remained in their seats, and others entered the Church while the majority of those persons present at the service were dispersing, in order to make sure of a presence at one of the most memorable ceremonies ever known to have taken place in the town before. The time of service was half-past six o'clock, but an hour and a half before that time the churchyard, and the streets abutting thereto, were filled with persons anxious to show the sympathy they felt in the occasion. Not even standing room could be obtained in the Church; hundreds of persons remained outside the doors, which had been left open for their benefit. Prayers were read by the Rev. J. F. Wright, lecturer; the lessons by the Rev. E. Warbreck, curate; and the Vicar preached a very appropriate sermon from the text Hebrews xiii., 8, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever."

The music* of the day was studiously plain, so that all might take a part in it—and never was music more solemn and soul inspiring. The singing was powerful in its sublimity. Old

*The organ was a fine instrument, built by Samuel Green, a noted organ builder in the time of George III. It occupied a prominent position in the west gallery.—See Jas. C. Scholes's "*Memorials of the Bolton Parish Church Organs*, 1882."

hymns were the order of the day, including, "Oh God, our help in ages past," and "Jerusalem my happy home," whilst the Old Hundredth Psalm, with the Doxology, was sung as a fitting conclusion to the worship of centuries. The effect was grand beyond description, the crowds of people in the churchyard and neighbouring thoroughfares joining in the one last grand chorus. Numbers were in tears, and there was, altogether, an indescribable amount of enthusiasm. The collections and subscriptions realised £225.*

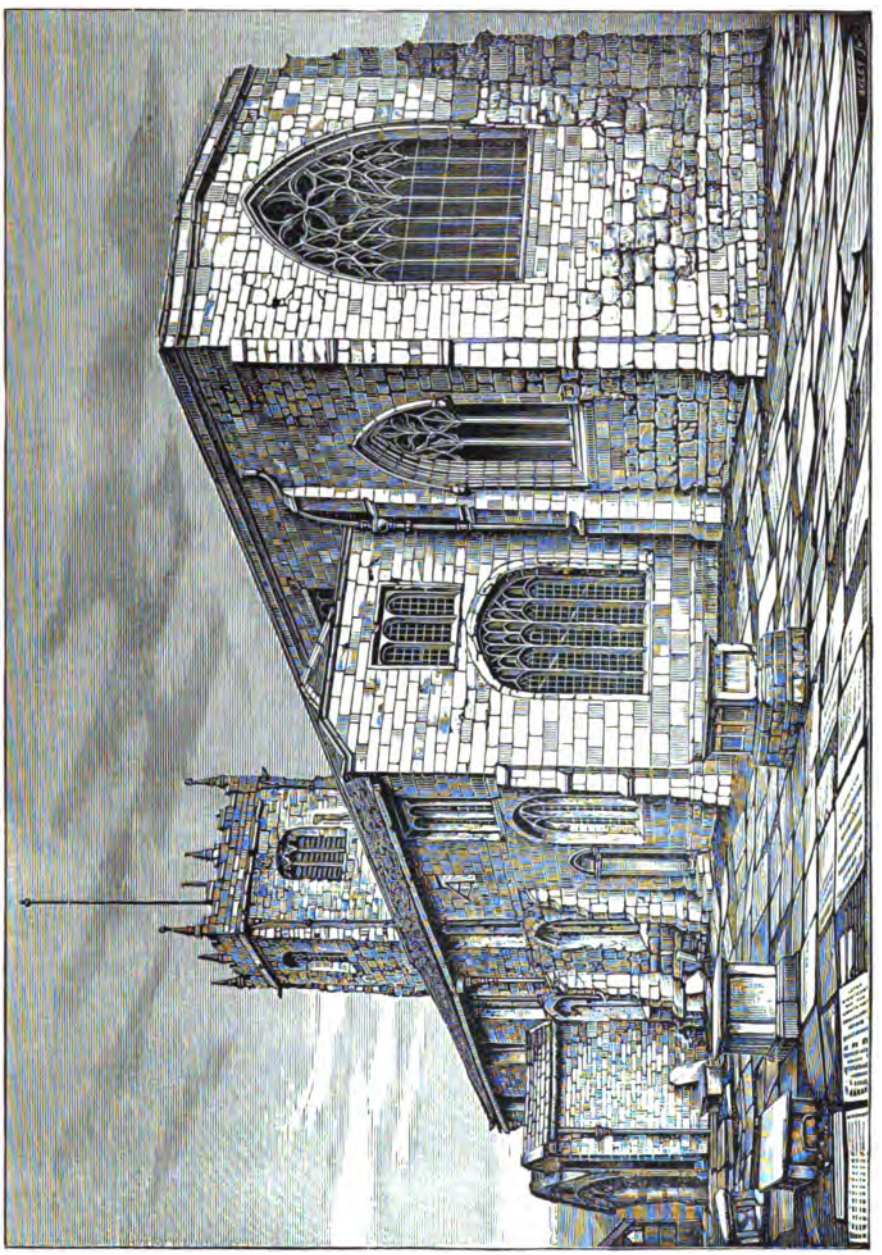
The organist (Mr. John H. L. Glover†) played on the fine old instrument for an hour after the conclusion of the service, and the bells were rung for the same length of time. Groups of people, apparently unwilling to leave the sacred old spot, joined in singing hymns and anthems in various parts of the churchyard. At length, about ten o'clock, the lights were extinguished in the Church and the doors were closed.

Thus ended the history of the venerable Old Parish Church of Bolton.

The accompanying engraving is from a south-east view of the sacred edifice as it appeared shortly before demolition was commenced.

*The analysis of these collections is as follows: Two five pound notes, 60 sovereigns, 35 half-sovereigns, 2 crown pieces, 193 half-crowns, 94 florins, 722 shillings, 1166 sixpenny pieces, 327 fourpenny pieces, 1170 threepenny pieces, 1030 pennies, 966 halfpennies, and 12 farthings. The total amount being £216 10s. 0d., but this was afterwards increased to about £225, as against £162 the year before.

†Appointed organist 23rd October, 1865, and terminated his engagement at the last service in the Old Church, 8th April, 1866.



CHAPTER XXI.

THE OLD PARISH CHURCH GRAVEYARD.

The Churchyard and its Surroundings—"The Kennels"—"Let-me-lie-where-I-fall" Stone—Puritan John Okey's Grave: A Unique Inscription—The Monument to Samuel Crompton's Memory—Memorial to Dr. and Mrs. Chadwick—Tombs of Two Vicars of Bolton—An Ejected Minister—Bolton Notabilities at Rest—Curious Epitaphs—The Old Sun Dial—The Burial Ground Closed.

HUNDREDS of gravestones are to be found in the spacious yard surrounding the Parish Church of Bolton, some curiously and quaintly inscribed, and many others carrying interest with them alike historically and genealogically.

The graveyard has a far different appearance now to what it had formerly. Its area has been greatly extended from time to time.

Half a century ago a number of dwelling-houses and a beershop stood facing the now flagged walk leading from the Church gates to the Church. These, as may well be imagined, were not of the "villa" or even "terrace" class; but rather of a style known as "irregulars"—some tall and others the reverse—and were ornamental only in quaint rustic fashion. The old residences were taken down a quarter of a century before

the Old Church was demolished,* and since then two or three other blocks of irregular and small buildings have suffered the same fate at the eastern end of Churchgate, between the old Vicarage and the School. The demolitions have added considerably to the perspective of the Church and the appearance of the town in that locality. A contemporary writer observes that the alteration was manifestly well-judged and well-effected, and that he never witnessed a more decided improvement. The ugly view presented by the former buildings is now, however, removed, and the Church stands out boldly to the eye, without being disagreeably approached by a hard and ungainly line of broken-down brick cottages. The removal contributes most essentially to the better appearance, not only of God's House, but "God's Acre," where our forefathers now sleep.

At the time in question a footpath was used through the churchyard leading to an opening near the Old Grammar School. This road was often the rendezvous of ruffians, who at nights hid themselves in the Old Church porch until some defenceless woman approached with her little stock of household provisions, when she was pounced upon by the desperadoes and relieved of her load and purse. Of course this "short cut" across the yard gave rise to stories of "ghosts," and it was a boon to the more peaceful inhabitants of the district when the road was, like the houses, done away with.

At one period a large yew tree adorned the old churchyard, and it is recorded that it was from this that many of the arrows were made for those "Bolton Lads" who so gallantly fought at the Battle of Flodden Field. Other foliage was conspicuous within the old burial area, especially on the southern side. In the best seasons of the year the trees were beautiful in their natural uncultured presence.†

In the south-east corner of the churchyard there were also some erections known as "the kennels." These were used by the gentry of Bolton and neighbourhood as stabling until the land upon which they stood was attached to the burial ground.

* Removed about the middle of the year 1841 (see *The Bolton Chronicle*, August 28, 1841.)

† Mr. John Albinson, writing in his "Common-place Book" about 1845, says:—"Bolton Parish Church.—Old dead trees round the old burial ground are removed away—no more seen—now all plain and open [that] in my youth were very fine green leaved groups—during Spring, Summer, Autumn. Alas! what a falling off here—surrounding the dead." (In Bolton Public Library.)

A few of the remarkable monuments erected to the memory of some of the more notable of our forefathers may now be described.

The oldest dated stone is situated near to a buttress on the south-east corner of the Church; it is dated 1597, and is best known as the "let-me-lie-where-I-fall" stone. Tradition says it covers the place where one of the workmen repairing the roof at that date fell and was killed. Another story signalises it as covering the remains of the *first* Vicar of the Parish.* This, however, is absurd, when it is remembered that Bolton could boast of a Church in Saxon times, and that there has been an almost unbroken line of Vicars, from the beginning of the 14th century.

The most elaborately inscribed stone in the ground is that covering the remains of Puritan John Okey. It is a lucid historical record of the remarkable times in which he lived. The stone lies near to the Grammar School wall, and is decipherable inasmuch as it was re-cut by a townsman some forty years ago. The inscription reads:—

"John Okey the servant of God was borne in London 1608 Came into this Towne 1629 Maried Mary the daughter of james Crompton of Breightmet 1635 with whom he lived comfortably 20 yeares & begot 4 sonns & 6 daughters since then he lived sole till the day of his death In his time were many Great Changes & terrible alterations 18 yeares civill wars in England besides many dreadfull sea fights The Crown or Command of England changed 8 times episcopacy laid aside 14 yeares London burnt by papists & more stately built againe Germany wasted 300 miles 200000 protestants murdered in Ireland by the papists This towne thrice stormed once taken & plundered He went thorow many troubles & divers conditions Found rest joy & happines only in holines the faith feare & loue of God in Jesus Christ He dyed the 29 of Ap & lieth here buried 1684 Come lord Iesus o come quickly

HOLINES IS MANS HAPPINES

Domine nos dirige Omnia sal sapit."

The raised tomb monument to the memory of Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, and one of the

* Brown's *History of Bolton*, p. 322.

founders of England's commercial greatness, is situated a few yards from the south porch of the Church. The stone is of polished granite, having been erected by the working-classes of Bolton at a cost of £60. Before the placing of this memorial a humble flat stone only covered the spot where lie the inventor's remains. The inscription was:—"Beneath this stone are interred the mortal remains of Samuel Crompton, of Bolton, late of the Hall-i'th'-Wood, in the township of Tong, inventor of the spinning machine called the MULE, who departed this life on the 26th day of June, 1827, aged seventy-two. *Mors ultima linea rerum est.*" (Death is the last boundary of human affairs.)* This old stone, which was laid by his family, now rests beneath the new monument.

In close proximity to the last-mentioned monument is a large handsome flat granite gravestone, beautifully lettered, to the memory of the late Dr. and Mrs. Chadwick, whose munificence has provided a large number of model dwelling-houses for working people—the rents going in support of an Orphanage for destitute girls, a building erected in the Haulgh by their benevolence. The lettering is in relief; the border is of a floral design.

The tombs of two Vicars of Bolton now lie on the north-east side of the Church (exterior). One, that inscribed to the Rev. Jeremiah Gilpin, vicar from 1789 to 1793, was between two buttresses and immediately under the northern wall of the Old Church, and is now as near as can be to its original position. The stone records:—"Sacred to the memory of Jeremiah Gilpin, M.A., late vicar of the parish, who departed this life November the 14th, 1793, in the 42nd year of his age. His afflicted widow has directed this monumental stone to be placed here. The humble record of conjugal and paternal affection, of his disinterested zeal, inflexible integrity, and unremitted diligence in the discharge of his parochial duties." The second stone, formerly at the north-east corner of the chancel, is now near to its original place outside the Church. This was set apart to the Rev. Thomas Bancroft, who was Vicar Gilpin's successor for 27 years. The lettering records:—

"The Rev. Thomas Bancroft, M.A., Vicar of Bolton,

* Mr. G. J. French, F.S.A., in his *Life of Samuel Crompton* (2nd ed.) 1860, p. 218, points out an error in the age of Crompton. He was born Dec. 3, 1753, died June 26, 1827; he was therefore in his 74th year.

terminated an active, just, and Christian life, on the 5th day of February, 1811, at the age of 55."

Vicar John Lever was also interred in the old churchyard, his tombstone being located on the south-east side of the Church. The inscription reads :—" H.S.E. Reverendus Johannes Lever, Vicarias, obiit Oct. 14th, 1691."

Another Rev. John Lever was buried in the same vicinity and at about the same time. This is singular, and has caused much variance of opinion as to their identity. The second John Lever was *not* Vicar of Bolton but Curate of Cockey Chapel, whence he was ejected in 1662. He afterwards assisted the ejected Vicar of Bolton (Richd. Goodwin) in founding the Presbyterian place of worship in Bolton. This John Lever lived in Bradshawgate in a house, the site of which is now occupied by Mr. Thomas Bromley's art repository, corner of Fold Street. But more of this in another page.

Numerous are the gravestones belonging to the notabilities of ancient Bolton. The Norresses, of Hall-i'th'Wood, formerly sub-lessees of the rectory lands; the Bradshaws, of Bradshaw and Darcy Lever Hall; the Cromptons, of Crompton Fold, in Breightmet; the Sharpleses, of Sharples Hall; the Levers, of Great, Little, and Darcy Lever; the Lomaxes, of Harwood (one of whom endowed the Grammar School with a sum of money towards a Cambridge scholarship); the Pimblets, of Bolton; the Haulghs, of Haulgh; the Hultons, of Bolton and Farnworth (one of whom endowed the "Hulton School" in Moor Lane); the Mathers, of Tonge (one of whom endowed a school in Kearsley); the Parkers, of Breightmet;* the Thwaites, Howells, and Thropps, of Bolton; the Horrockses, Entwisles, Brandwoods, and Norburys, of Turton, Edgworth, Entwisle, and Quarlton; and a host of others may be included in this series, but the above must suffice. Inscriptions referring to two of these benefactors are, however, worthy a place here :—

"Here resteth the body of Mr. Nathaniel Hulton, cittyzen of London. A person exemplary for piety and good works and a Considerable Benefactor Living and Dyinge in the place of his Nativitie who departed this Life Jan. the 3rd 1693 in the 71 year of his age."

* A faculty was obtained on the 19th October, 1734, by John Parker, of Breightmet Hall, to make a vault of five yards square for himself and family, at the north-east corner of the churchyard, and adjoining to the wall.—*Enrollment Book*, Vol. v., p. 235, Diocesan Registry, Chester.

"Likewise the remains of Henry Mather Gentln, who departed this life the 31st of March 1758 aged 79 years. Mr. Mather leaving no children thought fit to dedicate part of the Fruits of his early Industry to the service of God and his Country, by building and endowing in his lifetime a school at the High Stile in Kersley, the place of his nativity, for the plain education of poor children, of the several townships of Kersley, Great Bolton, and Tong with Haulgh."

The Bollings, the Slades, the Greggs, the Hicks, the Hardcastles, the Fletchers, the Blairs, the Rushtons, the Armitages, the Watkins, the Mawdsleys, the Mangnalls, the Mandevilles, the Rothwells, the Crooks, &c., had all their burying places in this churchyard, and in addition to these many tombstone memorials and epitaphs are worthy our notice. The following are some of the more noticeable:—

"Here lieth the body of Alis the faithful servant of God and dearely beloved wife of William Low who lived with him very contentedly 30 years and upwards and having finished her course here below departed this world the 20th day of July, 1661, it being the 52nd year of her age."

"M: S: Michaelis Tailor scribæ elegantissimi monumentum istud animi gratissimi tejonum posuit I: B: obyt Feb. 1st, 1659."

"Daniel Bradshaw was interred the 3rd of August, 1676.

Here lies the man whose life was holy, meek and just;
This was his only strife, to know he was but dust."

"Here resteth the body of Hamlit, the son of Alexander Smyth, of Bolton, who departed this life the — day of January, in the year 1690, aged 15 years — months.

Prepared be to follow me in the hour Death doth call,
For on the day we must away to give account for all."

The following is without either name or date, but is evidently an affectionate testimony to a good and faithful wife:—

"She was,—but words are wanting to say what,—
Think what a wife should be,—and she was that."*

*In Halton Churchyard there is a stone inscribed to the memory of Thomas Fletcher, of Highfield, gent., who died 17th June, 1760, and which bears the eulogium :—

"He was
But words are wanting to say what;
Think what a man should be,
And tho' an Attorney,
He was that."

Another stone has inscribed upon it:—

"Joseph, son of John and Margaret Stylls, died March 13th, 1794, aged 1 year.

Happy the babe who privileged by Fate
To shorten labours and a lighter weight,
Received but yesterday the gift of Truth,
Order'd to-morrow to return to Death."

The following is without date, but bears the name of "Heywood," and is a tribute to an affectionate wife:—

"No more thou'rt by my side, love,
I weep, but not rebellious tears,—
I mourn, but not in hopeless woe,—
I droop, but not with doubtful fears,—
For whom I've trusted, Her I know."

The two following are of the same period, but names and dates have disappeared. They memorialise two lawyers, no doubt very trustworthy men in their day and generation:—

"He was with every moral virtue graced,
And now in celestial happiness is placed;
It is a moral truth, deny it those who can,
Here lies an attorney and an honest man."

It has been a question whether the attorney and the honest man was the same identical person, but we must in charity believe they were. But if any doubt should exist, the other stone which lies but a little distance from the first will solve the question:—

"God works wonders now and then;
Here lies a lawyer, an honest man."

The following epitaphs are selected from a great number of the present century:—

1818. Family of Norris.

"Deservedly revered beneath this stone
The parents and their children united lie:
Oh! thou who readest, breathe the prayer alone,
That thou like them may'st live—like them may'st die."

Two sisters, aged 16 and 20. Ann Cooper, Jan. 12, 1820, and Margaret Cooper, Feb. 23, 1827.

"Consumption rapid as the fleeting hours
Hath nipt the bud of these most beauteous flowers;
We've lent you,—'tis the will of Him who gave,
To lay your sorrows in the silent grave,
To waft your virtuous souls to rest above,
Where all is happiness, and all is love.

Through the Redeemer's love to bear you home,
Our patient sufferings there to recompense.
Let it be ours to own the hand of God,
And humbly bend beneath the chastising rod,
That when Christ calls us we may joyful rise
And meet to part no more beyond the skies."

1822. Mary Hartley, aged 7 years and 9 months.

"She had no fault save what travellers give the moon,
Her light was bright, but died, alas! too soon."

1832. Ralph Catterall, aged 19.

"Death came sudden,—it was my lot,
I was kill'd dead upon the spot;
I am gone—Dear Parents, do not mourn—
From whence no travellers can return."

1834. John Aspinwall, of Sharples.

"Here rests a man whom slander could not reach,
Whose honest heart gave utterance to his speech,
A tender husband, and a faithful friend,
A life of virtue, and a happy end."

1848. John Walsh.

"A loving husband and a faithful friend
Lies here interred till Christ the Judge descend;
O cruel Death, that took him from my side,
Left me bereft of husband, friend, and guide."

The last to be noticed here is one particularly applicable to the one whom it memorialises. It reads:—

"Here lieth the body of Jane, the truly and beloved wife of Peter Calvert, of Winwick. She departed this life August 13th, 1848, aged 29 years. She lived and died in the Faith of Christ, and so her end was peace. Trained in the Parish Church Sunday School at Bolton, she shewed great aptness for learning,

and drunk deeply of the waters of life. At length became a Teacher, and was to the children of her class an able guide and a bright example.

'Blessed be the name of the Lord.'"

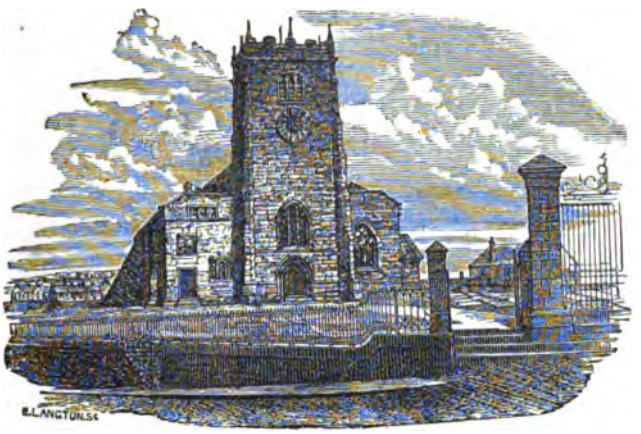
The old sun dial, which is ever associated with the Churches of former times, had its allotted place on the south side of the Church and opposite the porch. It is now removed further east.

As time sped apace the graveyards throughout the kingdom were considered unsatisfactory for the demands of the increased population, as well as, and more particularly, being the cause of considerable unhealthiness amongst the inhabitants. To remedy this, legislation interposed, and in May, 1854, the Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, issued an order relative to the closing of burial grounds—*i.e.*, Church and chapel yards—in Bolton. The notice commanded that burials were to be discontinued within the Parish Church forthwith; and from and after the 1st March, 1855, in the Parish churchyard, and in the churchyards and burial grounds belonging to St. George's Church, Holy Trinity Church, All Saints' Church, Christ Church, Baptist Chapel (Moor Lane), Wesleyan Chapels (Ridgway Gates, Bridge Street, and Fletcher Street), St. Peter and Paul's Roman Catholic Chapel (Pilkington Street), Independent Chapel (Mawdsley Street), Albert Place Chapel (Methodist Free Church), Independent Methodist Chapel (Folds Road), Primitive Methodist Chapel (Higher Bridge Street), Unitarian Chapel (Deansgate), Refugee Chapel (Hanover Street), and Quakers' Meeting House (Tipping Street).

No more than one body was permitted to be buried in each grave in the churchyards of Emmanuel (Cannon Street, Bolton), and St. Stephen and All Martyrs' (Lever Bridge); and even in these latter places a proviso was made that no coffin was to have a covering of less than four and a half feet of earth, measuring from the upper surface of the coffin to the level of the ground; whilst in the case of Emmanuel churchyard burials were to be entirely discontinued from and after the 1st March, 1856. However, on a memorial from the various wardens of the Parish of Bolton, in February, 1855, to the Home Secretary, an

extension of time was allowed for all burial grounds to remain open until October 1st, 1855. The requirements of the case were met by the purchase of about 29 acres of land near Tonge Bridge, which was formed into a cemetery and opened on the 26th December, 1856.

Since the formal closing of the Parish churchyard there have only been 20 burials.



FRONT VIEW OF OLD PARISH CHURCH.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE PARISH REGISTERS.

First Act Relating to Registers—An Important Discovery at Chester Registry Office—Bolton Register bearing date 1573 *—A Remarkable History—Hiding the Register—"Find" under the late Parish Church—Sixteenth Century Burials in Bolton—Weddings and Baptisms—Pestilence and Death —Bolton Aristocracy in Queen Elizabeth's days—Dress of the Bolton People—Religious and Political Unrest—The Second Bolton Register—List of Boltonians Excommunicated and Denounced in* 1632-34*—Absolution—Marriages in* 1632 *and afterwards—Quaint Burial Entries—Bolton Ravaged by Small-pox: Dreadful Mortality—Hunger and Starvation False Entries—A Clerical Censure—Improved Systems.*

THE Parish Registers are perhaps the most valuable documents belonging to the Church as well as to the ecclesiastical district. Without them little would be known of many of our ancestors except what tradition has preserved to us. Fortunately Bolton was not behind in conforming to the law of 30 Henry VIII. [1538], which enacted "that every parson, vicar, or curate, for every Church keep one book or register wherein he shall write the day and year of every wedding, christening, and burial. And for the

safe keeping of the same book the parish shall be bound to provide of their common charges one sure coffer, with two locks and keys, whereof the one to remain with the parson and the other with the wardens of every parish wherein the said book shall be laid up."

From time to time further injunctions were issued for the better keeping and preserving of the Parish Registers, and the respective Vicars of Bolton appear in most respects to have been faithful to their trust and endeavoured to fulfil the demands of the law.

In 1562-3 Archbishop Whitgift, who had recently been appointed to the chief episcopate by Queen Elizabeth, succeeded in passing a bill through Parliament authorising the erection of an "Office of Registership in every Diocese" as a place to preserve transcripts of all the registers belonging to the several churches in the respective dioceses. Presuming this law had not been made a vast number of early records, which now exist, would certainly not have been preserved. As a case in point, the earliest registers of our own town may be cited. For instance, whereas the earliest Register Book at the Parish Church dates only from the year 1587, transcripts of a still more ancient register of our Church and parish were preserved at the Chester Diocesan Registry bearing the date 1573. By lapse of time, to put the matter mildly, this fragment of Bolton Register found its way among a lot of other MS. miscellanea —uncared for and despised. By the kindness of John Gamon, Esq., the present Registrar, the writer of these pages was permitted a few years ago to arrange some of these stray records with a view of restoring the same to their respective bundles. Quite accidentally the transcripts of Bolton registers for the years 1573-4 were picked up, and on account of the dilapidated condition of the fragments a careful copy was taken, and thus was rescued from inevitable destruction our earliest legally-written Parish Register. Before this discovery it was taken as a fact that no register had been kept in Bolton anterior to 1587; it is not unlikely, however, that the Vicar of our town at the time of Henry VIII.'s first injunction respecting the keeping of Register Books—who by-the-bye was James Bolton—immediately complied with the Act, but that by some mishap or

personal confiscation the *first* Register Book of our parish was either destroyed or irretrievably lost.

A similar fate almost befel the Register Book commencing 1587. At all events its history is somewhat remarkable. It is supposed that during the times of the Civil Wars the book was subjected to considerable violence, and its destruction attempted, and that perhaps along with a still earlier Register Book and other valuable writings belonging to the Church and town it was cast into the flames, from which it was fortunately rescued by some friendly hand—hence the scorched marks and generally dilapidated appearance of its backs and leaves. The book measures 18in. by 12in., and contains about 300 pages of stout paper, of a class peculiar to those early times. It is bound in leather (not vellum or parchment, as is generally the case with books of its kind and date), which is gradually forsaking the boards and peeling off, whilst from natural decay the leaves are likewise suffering. Through fear of its destruction being completed it was secretly hidden, probably by the enthusiastic vicar—Rev. William Gregg—and by his early death, which happened in 1644, its place of secretion became unknown. Be that as it may, between 170 and 180 years passed by before the book was again recovered in the following manner. Early in the present century an underground flue was being constructed from a stove immediately behind the old pulpit in the late Parish Church. On turning up the soil under the floor of the end stall, or Lecturer's pew, at the north-east corner of the chancel, a stone slab was noticed, and its removal disclosed the old MS. book lying upon the bare ground. Mr. Richard Mangnall, clerk and sexton at that time, was the fortunate finder of this relic of centuries ago; and the restoration of which has added greatly to the genealogical history of our town and neighbourhood.

The marriage entries in this volume are properly introduced as follows:—"This boke of Registers of all the weddings att the Church of bolton begynnynge the xxth of Januarye Anno Domi 1587, wryten by me, ALEXANDER SMYTHE, Vicar of Bolton." Then follows the first entry:—

James Crompton of Mydleton p'yshe } The vth daye
dorothy dodson of Deane p'she maryed } of februarye

The subsequent entries are in a somewhat similar form, and call for no special remark. But the number fluctuates from year to year. In the first year, A.D. 1587, for the three last months, there were only four. In 1588, for the whole year, there were 24. In 1600 there were 25; 1610, 19; 1620, 31; 1630, 22.

The burial entries have a similar introduction to the marriages, as follows:—"The Registr of All the buryalls at the Churche of bolton, begynnynge the xxist of January, Anno Domi, 1587. According to the computacon of the Churche of England wryten by me ALEXANDER SMYTHE, Vicar there."

The number of burials gradually increased. For the year 1590 there were 67; in 1600, 90; 1610, 81; 1620, 119; 1630, 126. This indicates that even at that time Bolton was an increasing place. About the year 1600 burials in the Church were very numerous. In that year out of 91 interments no fewer than 21 have recorded against them "*intra ecclesiam*," and other years give nearly the same result.

The leaves of this old volume are much worn at the edges, to say nothing of the stain marks caused by damp. On this account many entries are rendered incomplete and almost undecipherable. It is also evident that some of the leaves became detached at an early period, and were subsequently inserted in wrong places and bottom upwards. Without doubt a few leaves that were at the beginning and end of the book are lost, and, apparently, there are some careless entries in the body of the book. Otherwise, and considering the eventful history of the volume, the entries, mostly in English, are comprehensive and legible, and, to a practised eye, can easily be read.

As already stated, the marriage and burial entries begin in February and January, 1587, respectively, whilst the baptisms were commenced in November, 1590. The book concludes with baptisms and burials in 1631 and marriages in 1632. Many curious entries may be found in this book; a few specimens are subjoined:—

"1598.—A man child of Master Preston's, buried in November."

"1610.—Oulde Nurse of Entwissell, buried *intra ecclesiam*, 28 Feby."

"1623.—A poore wench of Johns of Mary, buried 10 January."

"1623.—A widowe woman wich dwelled in the Acres, buried 1 Feby."

It is evident, from a careful perusal of the interesting Register, that in some years there was considerable unhealthiness and mortality in Bolton. The plague and the smallpox were prevalent, which would probably be provoked by the practice of burying within the Church. In 1621 there were 156 burials, including no fewer than 86 children, who seem to have been swept off in batches. In one case six consecutive entries refer to infants, in another seven, in another nine, and in another twelve. Only 128 burials are recorded in the succeeding year, but this number is perhaps not the whole of those which took place, as the register for that year is imperfect. But in 1623, when the plague was rampant in Lancashire, the burials rose to the unprecedented number of 452. Of these 28 are recorded in August, 57 in September, 51 in October, 60 in November, 52 in December, 49 in January, 42 in February, and only 19 in March. The disease was at its height, therefore, in the autumn, and one can easily imagine the awful gloom which reigned in Bolton at that distressing time. During the height of the sickness there were often three or four funerals in one day, and this when the population of Bolton did not probably exceed 2000.

An ancient register such as this, independently of the interesting information which it affords, carries back our thoughts to a state of things very different to what at present obtains. The earliest entry was in the 29th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and the very year in which she signed the death warrant of Mary Queen of Scots—beheaded at Fotheringay Castle, in the 45th year of her age and the 18th of her imprisonment. It was also the year before the setting out and destruction of the Spanish Armada, sent to invade our shores with a view of again fastening upon this country the yoke of the Papacy.

The families which at that time formed the aristocracy of Bolton have, even in name, almost passed away. There were the Andertons of Lostock, the Andrews' of Rivington, the Athertons of Chowbent, the Ashtons of Great Lever, the Aynesworths of Aynesworth and Bolton, the Bartons of Smithells, the Bradshaws of Bradshaw and Darcy Lever, the Hiltons or Hultons of Farn-

worth and Hulton, the Levers of Lever, the Parkers of Breightmet, the Norreses of Hall-i'th'-Wood, the Orrells of Turton, the Pilkingtons of Rivington, the Radcliffes of Radcliffe, the Sharples' of Sharples, the Woods of Turton, and many others. Of these the Ainsworths and the Hultons are the only leading families that remain.

These families were no doubt in the habit of regularly attending the Bolton Parish Church on Sundays, most of them on horseback, and were followed by their tenants and dependants. The fardingale—a kind of hoop, not altogether dissimilar to the crinoline of a later day—was in use among the ladies, and ruffs and points were fashionable among the gentlemen; while the husbandmen would be well bearded, and wore trunk hose and leathern girdles. There would be of the townspeople also the working classes, the keepers of badgers, and of provision shops, a money scrivener, a conveyancer, a physician, an apothecary, and in all probability a dabbler in astrology and witchcraft too. But these have now passed away, and a far different generation has come.

It may not be uninteresting to notice that during the period embraced in this register both political and ecclesiastical affairs assumed an important and stirring character. The eventful reign of Elizabeth was drawing to a close, and was succeeded by that of James I., which, though not of such special mark as Elizabeth's, was not altogether destitute of important incidents. In 1603 the Hampton Court Conference was held, in which objections made by the Puritans to the Prayer Book were discussed, in the hope that a reconciliation with the Church might ensue. In 1604 the Canons Ecclesiastical, which yet bind the clergy of the English Church, were framed. In 1605 the Gunpowder Plot was discovered—a plot having for its object the wholesale massacre of the King and the Government, with the view of exterminating Protestantism and re-imposing Romanism in its stead. In 1625 Charles I. began his eventful reign, and Laud, who first as Bishop of Gloucester and afterwards as Bishop of St. David's, was advancing in Court influence, lost no opportunity of furthering his views, which contributed, as is well known, not only to a revolution in the Church, but to a rebellion in the State. Indeed, the leaven was already at work which

had such a baneful influence in the history of the next twenty years.

The second existing Register Book of the Parish of Bolton commences in 1632 and concludes with the year 1712. It contains a mass of entries seldom met with in a single volume. It is particularly well written and well-cared for. The entries are regularly kept excepting during the Commonwealth, when not only those of Bolton, but others throughout the country, with very few exceptions, were almost entirely neglected. Not only did the Parish Registers suffer from gross and wanton neglect, but likewise numerous other civil and ecclesiastical records were maliciously wholly or partially destroyed. Hence the gap in local history for a period of ten years can only be filled with tales of murder, war, and bloodshed.

A curious entry has been made in a Register Book of Colne Parish, co. Lancashire, relative to this state of things during the time of the Protectorate. It reads:—"The destruction of these ancient and valuable records is perhaps to be attributed to that ignorant and fanatical zeal which so furiously raged about the period of this volume's commencement—1644–1654—viz., that the same persecuting zeal which turned the Chapel at Lambeth into a ball-room and digging up thence the body of Archbishop Parker, buried the mangled remains under a dunghill. The same zeal, under another party name, which destroyed at once the labours of many hundred years collection in that valuable library at Alexandria." On the other hand one of the few exceptions where registers were regularly kept during the period in question is the Church of St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Chester.*

The first page of the second extant volume of Registers at Bolton contains a long list of persons excommunicated and absolved (for non-payment of tithes and other ecclesiastical offences), an evidence of the exercise of severe discipline in those days, and probably among the causes of the reactionary license which prevailed in after times. The subjoined is a transcript of the names:—

"These psonns that were Excommunicate by Mr. Woollmer

The Ancient Parish Books of St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Chester, edited by Mr. J. P. Earwaker, M.A., F.S.A., 1887.

the deane, and denounst in Bolton Church the 9th of September 1632 are as followeth :

*Wm: Nuttall of great bolton
Raph Tildsley, ab :
Wm: Yate
*James Sharples } of great bolton
*Richard Gest } absolved octo: 7 : 1632.
*Joseph Byckett
Lawrance greenehalgh of Tonge junior
Ralph Isherwood
*Alice Isherwood breighmitt
Roger Taylior
Wm: Whittell junior
*Tho: Crompton of Breightmitt ab:
Richard Bromeley of breightmitt ab:
Ellise Smith of Tonge
Ralph Baron of Standish p'ish
Elline Clayton of Riuington
Richard Bradshaw } de Breightmitt excom:
Liddia Lomax } the 7 of October 1632.
Richard Bradshaw of Breightmitt excom:
by Mr. Stapford of Chester June 27: 1632:
*Richard Lommax excom[d] feb: 24 1632 by doctor Easdall of York ; absolud from York March 10th, 1632.

Persons excomunicated by docter Easdall in the Metropolitan Visitacon Ano: Dom: 1633, and denounced at Bolton dec: 7th 1634 :—

Richard Brooks, John Leauer, Wm: bromiley, Richard Sharples, Tho: Key, *Hugh Crompton, *Nicholas Beardson, *Law: Crompton, Peter Walkden, Eliz: Wright, Margrett bordman, Richard Lowe, Margrett Lomas, *Hen: Birtwisle, marey Meale, Roger Brook, Eliz: bradshaw, *Thomas greenehalgh, *Jane Tarkington, Elline Crompton, Richard Brooke, Jane Crompton, Rich: Slator, Ra: morris, Dorethey Turner, James Leaver, Riuington de Riuingtonn.

Richard Bradshaw } de Tong } excomunicated by
Eline Jackson } doctor Mannering or
Richard Bradshaw } de } his deputy July 25,
Liddia Lomax } breightmitt } 1634

*These names are crossed over in the original, probably on account of subsequent absolution.

Henery Birtwisle, Thomas Greenehalgh } both absolued dec: 19th 1634 by Mr. Burton substitute to doctor Easdall of yorke.

John Bridge was absolved by Mr. Burtonn dec: 19th Ano dom: 1634.

James Leigh de pva Boltonn was excomunicated August 30th 1640 p Mr. Harper.

Martine Thornton de Boltonn, *Richard Hadock de Torton } weare excommunicated by doctor Maine Waring & denounced Jan: 28th 1637 by Mr. Jo: Harper

Richard Heydock absolved march 27th 1638 by Mr. Gregg, the absolution coming ffrom doctor Mainwareing.

Thomas Horrockes de darcy Leaver, Richard Bradshaw de breightmitt, Liddia Lomas de breightmitt } Excomunicated by doctor main Wareing and denounced in the pish Church of boltonn March xith 1637 p Mr. Gregg.

Excomunicated vpon ye [torn]
Edward Cassom of Bolto [n]
Ann Tonge of Breigh[tmet]
Henery Yate of Turton.
Ellen Haslom of Quarlton.
James Kay & Margret K[ay]."

The second page of this volume has preserved to posterity the names of Churchwardens (or Guardians) for the Parish of Bolton from 1631 to 1649, which will appear in subsequent chapters.

The following unpoetic effusion precedes the marriage entries for 1632 :—

This part conteynes the marryed state
Wth most, there followes quick debate
If ffortune smile then are the[y] gladd
If not, they greeve they weare so madd,
p me Ro: Welsh.

It is probable that "Ro: Welsh" was either the parish

*These names are crossed over in the original, probably on account of subsequent absolution.

clerk or scribe of the Registers, though his name has been erroneously inserted in a printed list of Vicars of Bolton.

The marriages slightly vary in number from year to year, the average being 41 for ten years—1632 to 1641. During the three years of the Civil War they were: 26 in 1642, 23 in 1643, and 20 in 1644. After that the entries become still more irregular, and on the downward side.

During the Commonwealth, it must be remembered, Episcopacy and the Prayer Book were abolished, and that Parliament, under Oliver Cromwell, directed and carried out religious arrangements for the people. Marriages were treated more as a civil than as a religious ordinance, and, as proved by the Register, such ceremonies were celebrated as often by a magistrate as by a clergyman. Two marriage entries (practically similar to all others made during the decade under notice) need only be given as an illustration of the extraordinary state of affairs:—

"Arthur Bromiley of Harwood and Isabell Roscoe of Breightmet, both of this p'ish, Published in the Church three severall Lords Dayes (vizt.) on the 14th on the 21st and on the 28th June, 1657, And were married by Edmund Hopwood of Hopwood, Esq. (one of the Justices of peace in this County the ffirst of July, 1657)."

"Will Holme of the Haugh, widdower, And Jane Hewood, of Little Leaver, widdow, both of this p'ish, Published in the Market place next to the p'ish Church in Boulton, on three Market-dayes in three sev'rall weekes (Betweene the Houres of Eleven and two) (vizt.) on the 15th on the 22nd and on the 29th of June, 1657, And were married by Edward Sumner, Maior of Wigan the ffirst of July, 1657."

In 1658, Oliver Cromwell died, when the Protectorate was transferred to his son Richard, who held the appointment for two years, after which the country again became subservient to the rule of Charles II. The Registers were once more well and properly kept, and from that time to this nothing has been long wanting to add to and improve their authenticity.

The burial portion of this Register Book is prefaced

similarly to the marriage section, and by the same writer. The verse reads :—

This part of Booke it doth conteyne
Those dead, yett sure, must ryse againe
There names thow sees, and soe haue I;
Then Letts prepare vs both to dye.
p me : Ro : Welsh.

Many curious and amusing entries appear among the burials in this volume. For example :—

1641.—Ould Sock wiff de Bolton, Februarie 2.
1646.—Maud a mad Woman de Breightmet, March 21.
1648.—Old Croe de Bolton, Januarie 9.
1649.—A poore wench from thence (*i.e.*, Little Bolton) a horseback, June 6.
1659.—Ould Whistler's mother of Halliwell, May 11.
1663.—A child, a stranger that begged, died at Ellis Bradshaws in Tong, died February 12, buried 13.
1665.—Robert Whiteside, of Boulton [that honest upright man], died 11, buried 12 October.
1667.—Jonathan Cronkeshaw, of Boulton, an excommunicated person, buried privately, April 28.

In 1642, Bolton was ravaged by the smallpox. In the month of April fifty-one deaths are recorded in the Register, forty-five being the result of the pestilence, including only four of adult persons. The year 1643 was scarcely less unhealthy, 220 being registered, though at that time the population of Bolton was estimated at only 800. But it must be remembered that the town was garrisoned by soldiers, which would account for the excessive proportion of deaths to the ordinary population.

In three successive years—1642-3-4—the Puritan town was assaulted by the Royalists under Prince Rupert and Lord Derby, which resulted in terrible carnage of inhabitants as well as military, as the Registers bear witness.* But the troubles of Bolton did not end with the year 1644. The Civil War still went on, and domestic, ecclesiastical, and public unrest continued.

In 1647 the smallpox again invaded the town—commencing in October and prolonging its dire ravages till the following April. No fewer than 65 entries of deaths consequent upon the disorder are recorded in the Registers during those six months out of a total number of burials of 110. It is on record also, and it would have been wonderful if it had not been so, that from 1642 to 1649, the trade of Bolton was so frightfully depressed that the people were unable to provide themselves

*See the subsequent Chapters giving an account of the Sieges of Bolton.

with the comforts and barely with the necessaries of life, and that consequently the utmost distress and misery prevailed. It can hardly be supposed, moreover, that the inhabitants of Bolton, who were evidently so alive to the questions of the day, could have been otherwise than greatly moved by the stirring tragical scenes which were taking place around them. In 1642, for example, the Civil War had commenced, and battles were being fought on every hand between the King and his people. In 1644 Archbishop Laud was tried and condemned, and in the following year was executed; his death being speedily followed by the abolition of the Liturgy, and a total alteration of the ritual and government of the Church. From 1645 to 1649 (the year in which the King was executed), the whole country was in a state of turmoil, and every place must have suffered more or less from a sense of insecurity. The great event, however, which marked the history of Bolton was the execution of James, the Seventh Earl of Derby, in the year 1651. As a detailed account of this is given in another chapter, further reference here is unnecessary.

The Registers from this time forward assume a more steady and regular form—an indication that the restored government promoted order and discipline in the Church, as well as throughout the country at large. On this account little more need be said, save that in 1664 the baptisms which had been performed at Bradshaw and Turton Chapels in the previous year now appeared under distinct headings. Beforetime all baptisms, marriages, and burials which were performed in the churches and chapels of ease in the entire parish, were entered in the Registers of the mother church, as if such rites had actually taken place at Bolton.

A false entry written amongst the baptism entries of 1691, was detected by the Rev. Canon Slade—Vicar 1817-1857—who refused to give a certificate of the same in a case pending in Chancery. Several letters passed, from which it appears that a man came to search the Registers, and while thus occupied he induced the parish clerk to go and ask a question of the Vicar. During the clerk's absence the man drew blood from his arm and made, it is said, the entry in question. The fraud, however, was soon afterwards discovered, and the man confessed his guilt.

In December 1663, a double column is introduced for the

respective dates of death and burial, from which it appears that early interment was the rule at that period—the burial occurring either on the day of the death or the day following. This custom, in all probability, was necessitated by the prevalence of the plague and the smallpox, and the danger of infection which accompanied them. The sanitation of the town was not as satisfactory as now, neither was the discovery of inoculation as a prevention against infection made; hence prompt measures in securing immediate burial.

A record of the burial of four persons at Turton, in 1663 and 1664, is severely censured by Robert Harpur, the Vicar of Bolton, in the following terms:—"These persons ought to have been buried at Boulton, because Turton is noe Parochiall Chappell, nor did the inhabitants of Turton bury there formerly, but constantly at Boulton." The clerical offender is not positively known, because, according to Edmund Calamy, the officiating minister (Mr. Taylor) in 1662 was ejected under the Act of Nonconformity; and the name of his immediate successor is not for certainty known, though a record exists in the Archives of Chester that anterior to 1671 Richard Atherton was minister there. Another protest was made by Vicar Harpur about this time with reference to a disfigurement of the Register Book. At the foot of one page he wrote the following note:—"Turne over the leafe, & vpon the other side of this leafe nothing is written because before the Register Booke was delivered into my hands some busie idle blockhead had blotted it, but the other page beginneth after the superscription or tytle." In justice to that Vicar, and as an apology for his apparent warmth of temper, it would be well to mention that the page referred to is well blotted with ink, and that "the busy idle blockhead" was no other than "J. Pugh," who had the audacity to immortalize himself by writing his name in long straggling letters across the page, and so perpetuating an ill-reputation for very disgraceful penmanship.

The third extant volume of Registers begins 1713 and closes 1758, and the entries assume a regular form throughout. After this time separate books for baptisms, marriages, and burials, were kept. The volumes became also greatly multiplied in proportion to the increasing population, whilst they present a methodical form. The times were quiet and peaceable, and the

inhabitants of the town more reconciled to the supremacy of those at the head of affairs. Political disturbances occasionally intervened, but on the whole peace and prosperity prevailed.

Throughout the entire Registers such titles as "Esquire," "Mr.," "Gentleman," "Mrs.," and "Mistress," are very sparingly bestowed, even to the heads of the most opulent families. However, amongst others, are "Ould Mrs. Bradshaw of Bradshawe," "Mrs. Anderton of Lostock," "Mrs. Skowcroft of Bradshaw," "George Ashton of Great Lever, Esq.," and "Christopher Anderton of Lostock, gent."

Various Acts of Parliament regarding the better keeping of Parochial Registers have been enforced from time to time with good results, but perhaps the best of these Acts was passed in 1836, and enforced in the year following. This required the appointment of a Registrar-General, under whom were District Superintendents. To these governmental officers notifications of births, marriages, and deaths, were to be supplied. Thus duplicates of the original church, chapel, and cemetery registers are a safeguard against their loss by fire, damp, confiscation, &c. The same system is still in vogue.

Anterior to 1812 are many entries in the Bolton Parish Registers, which appear, as has been said, to be false, particularly in the second volume. The fact is suggested by the various styles of writing certain entries, and also their general appearance variously differing from the context. The doubt thus set forth is justly amplified on comparison with the transcripts preserved at Chester. However, printed transcripts of the originals (after comparison with the Chester copies) have been published in the columns of the *Bolton Weekly Journal.*

CHAPTER XXIII.

VESTRY RESOLUTIONS AND ACCOUNTS.

Stormy Events—Church Repairs—Levies on Townships—Taxes and Assessments—An Excommunicated Churchwarden—"Hedghoghes" and "ffoxes"—Rivington Churchmen to be "Presented"—The Churchyard Gates—A Threatened Prosecution.

OR purposes of Church history perhaps the greatest number of details are to be found in the Churchwardens' Vestry and Account Books. Of these a number are still preserved in the Parish Church safe, the earliest dating from 1656. It is, however, very extraordinary that scarcely any observations occur in these books in reference to the general public events of the period which they cover—namely, from the year 1656 to 1739—considering that so many striking incidents, ecclesiastical and otherwise, in history had happened.

For example, in the year 1656, when the first entry was made, Cromwell was in the zenith of his power as Lord Protector of the Realm. In 1660 Charles II. ascended the throne and commenced a reign which would have been greater and more creditable than it was but for the dissipation and libertinism which characterised it, and of which national disaster was the

result. In 1665 the Plague broke out in London, and upwards of 68,596 persons died. In 1666, the great Fire of London occurred, in which 89 churches and 13,200 houses were consumed. From 1670 to 1680 the nation was distracted with the diabolical conspiracies of Oates and others, and the whole country was kept in an extraordinary state of excitement and alarm. James II., an avowed Papist, began his reign in the year 1685, and for four years used every mean exertion to bring back England under the tyrannies of Rome. In 1688 came the trial and acquittal of the Seven Bishops in Westminster Hall—Bishops who refused to obey the Jesuitical mandate of the King, and which resulted in the flag of Protestantism and liberty being unfurled, and in the flight and abdication of the King. The Restoration was thus successfully accomplished by the appointment of William and Mary to the Throne, since which time the public peace has not been seriously disturbed.

All these great and stormy events had occurred during the period referred to, and yet none of them apparently affected the town of Bolton so much as to elicit an entry on the subject in the "Book of Records" kept within the coffers of the Old Parish Church. Nevertheless there are preserved to posterity numerous entries especially quaint and otherwise interesting; and as extracts have not heretofore appeared in print the present occasion is taken for producing some of the most noteworthy. The first entry is dated June 20th, 1656, and records that a tax of £18 for repairing the Church shall be levied upon the parish "according to the ancient proportion," and "that the south side of the Church be slated this summer out of this money." Amongst the parishioners present at the meeting were Alexander Norres, John Okey, John Crompton, and Richard Bradshawe; the six Churchwardens of Bolton and townships and Richard Goodwin, the Vicar, also signed the resolution. This is the only instance of Vicar Goodwin's signature in either the Vestry or Account Books, whilst John Okey (the Puritan) signed the Vestry Book almost without intermission until June 30th, 1671.

May 18, 1658.—Levy £12. "That the frames and the bolts be repaired and the flaggs of the Church levelled with this money."

May 15, 1666.—"Resolved yt ffourty two pounds bee assessed vpon ye inhabitants of the parish of Bolton, for ye vses under-written:—For ye wall in ye church being 60 yard long & a yard & halfe high, with large topstones of eight inches thick; for mossinge & slateing ye church on ye top of ye steeple; for ye repaire of ye glasse of ye whole church; for ye repaire of ye 4 windowes of

ye steeple ; for ye leads of ye steeple & pipes of steeple & church ; for ye repaire of ye Bells ; for pointing of ye windows & other places where there is need in & about ye church." The proportion of the assessment was £7 16s. od. for Bolton-cum-Hamletts, £7 4s. od. each for Harwood, Turton, Edgeworth, and Rivington, and £5 8s. od. for Blackrod.

May 15, 1666.—"Resolved that eightie pounds be assessed vpon the inhabitants of the Parish of Bolton for the repaire of the church walles, mossing, & slating of the church, glazeing the windows, for a new Bell & repaire of the old ones, & for the repaire of the steeple windows, with other necessaries in & about the church."

May 23, 1667.—"A taxe to bee layed for necessarie repaires in and about the church, & for whitlyminge & beautifieinge the church." The amount of this assessment was £30.

May 15, 1668.—"Resolved that twentie nine pounds 3s. 4d. be assessed vpon the inhabitants of the parish of Bolton, for the vses following :—ye repaire of ye church bounds, ye great Bible, ye bookes of ye Church, ye poore boxes, ye seats, ye glass, & to by a beere & a spade 1 dyall, & for a gift to ye Clarke for payment of Mr. Browne ye plummer, & for bread and wine for ye yeare past & this present yeare, if the parishioners be charged with it."

October 12, 1669.—"It is agreed that Daniell Stones, of Sharples, be elected Churchwarden for Bolton for this present yeare, in the roome of John Stones, hee being dead."

October 18, 1669.—"It is agreed that John Haslam, of Longworth, is elected churchwarden for Turton for this present yeare, in the roome of Christopher Horrockes, hee beinge excommunicated."

June 14, 1670.—"A lay to be laied for these vses following :—for poynting the steeple of the church, for a new beame in the west end of the south oile, for repaire of boxes and lockes, leads, slate, and other defects." The assessment was £29 3s. 4d.

June 20, 1671.—"It is agreed that Robert Bolton is to keepe the slate and Topp of steeple in good repaire for moss, lats, and nayles, for one whole yeare ; to Torne water and snow, for the sume of Thirteene shillings and foure pence, and to moss it once in ffowre yeare for ye space of Twelve yeares if hee, the saied Robert Bolton, do so longe live and bee able to worke ; and ffurther it is agreed that if there bee any Beame broken within, the parish shall bee at ye charge of that decay."

August 14, 1677.—"Agreed (at the request of Mr. John Lever, present Vicar), that hee might have indulged to him either the benefitt of the blacke Clothe, or be pd. the Church dews for ye yeare, by the overseers of the poor of the severall Townshipps of the parish. It was then consented to (vppon condic'on it should be no precedent ffor those that hereafter may follow) that duringe his continuance heer as Vicar he shall receive 12d. ffor eu'ry person."

April 17, 1677.—"Agreed that the parish clarke shall take care yt the clock strike orderly hours and quarters, and that hee keepe the same accordingly in good repaire for this yeare ensuing ; and for his care and charge and paines is to have forty shillings ; and for every passing peale that is an houre longe is to have sixpence, and for all other ringing is to have twenty shillings yearly. That the flags bee kept even, and so are to bee delivered at ye end of this year by the clarke and saxtone, for which they are to have 8d. a grave from the deceased relations."

May 11, 1682.—"Agreed that for the future no churchwarden in this parish shall have no allowance in his accounts for hedghoghes, ffoxes, or other vermin, except he can produce a law for such payments."

July 10, 1684.—At a generall meetinge of the parishioners vpon publicke notice given in the church and chappells the last Sabbath day : "That whereas Mr. Lever hath the benefit of the blacke clothes, and the clarke hath not had any of the dues due to him for attending on the poor that have allowance in the poore books at the burials, it is ordered and agreed that the churchwardens or overseers at the funerall attending such poore person for the year to come shall pay to Mr. Ralph Allen, the present clarke, for every one that is carried on a Beire sixe pence, and for every one that comes on a woman's head Twopence."

June 6, 1700.—"These following perticulars are agreed unto : To repaire ye leads, slates, and windoes of ye Church ; to flag ye Church even, & set ye seats even ; to make ye clock hansome and good ; two new surpluess ; a sett of Ringers & a sallery for them."

July 29, 1712.—"Agreed that for new leading part of the roofe of the sd. church, and for a new beame, and for tearing and plastering the walls, and reimbursing the late churchwardens the sume of fforty pounds which they are out of pockett, and for other necessary repaires and charges of the said church, the sume of £170 shalbe assessed and levied upon the inhabitants of the said parish in the ancient and vsuall proportion and way."

November 20, 1717.—"Agreed yt an assessment, by reason of some unexpected charges of ye sum of £30 of an additional lay for finishing ye repairs of ye church ys present year as yt for many years to come there will in all probability be no occasion for any lays, but for ye com'on church charges. Yt ys foresd. sum be assessed & levied upon ye inhabitants of ye sd. parish, &c."

July 16, 1718.—"Agreed yt every churchwarden in ys respective township shall give in ye names of all poor people to whom ye sacrament money is distributed, in a list of writing to ye Vicar, to which aforesaid agreement we have set our hands that it may be a rule for ever." The signatures of ten parishioners are appended to the writing.

October 27, 1721.—"Agreed by ye major part of ye parishioners yn present yt two small cushions be provided for each end of ye Com'union Table; a new Door at ye West end of the Steeple; one Cushion for ye Pulpit; a Com'on Prayer Book for ye Seat in ye Chancel; a Corner Cupboard for ye Vestrey; yt ye Chymes be put in order; yt a place be built to lay lime in." This was in the first year of Rev. Thomas Morrall's vicariate, and he signed the resolution.

April 7 1724.—"At a meeting. . . . in ye p'ish church. . . . it was agreed upon yt ye inhabitants of ye township of Rivington shall, at ye next Visitac'on, be presented for not making a return of a churchwarden for ye sd. township, & for not doing suit & service relating to yt office as heretofore they have done; & what charge shall attend yt presentment & prosecution to be at ye charge of ye whole parish." The Vicar (Rev. Thomas Morrall) and fifteen parishioners signed the resolution.

April 22, 1724.—"Agreed yt a Curtain shall be provided at ye p'sh charge, and hung up to cover ye Altar piece in ye chancel to preserve ye same from ye dust, &c."

November 5, 1724.—"Agreed that a new pair of Iron Gates be provided, & an Herse which shall not go out of ye parish of Bolton." At this meeting it was also "agreed betwixt Mr. Henry Eskricke & ye rest of ye churchwardens & Ralph Greenhaulgh, of Harwood, wheelwright, that ye sd. Ralph Greenhaulgh shall make an Herse of Oakwood (gapan'd with black) for ye use of ye parish of Bolton, in form and manner as follows:—Impris., that ye sd. Ralph Greenhaulgh shall be obliged to make ye wheels five foot an half high, steakes or tier full two inches, four frets of a naith Brushes, Axletree, & all other instruments fitting for ye Herse & wheels (harness being excepted), & all ye foresd. matters at ye price of seven pounds & ten shillings, to be finished in ye space of three months. Also 'tis agreed yt a Death's Head & two Cross Bonnes on ye Door behind is to be drawn."

The following is copy of a neatly-written letter of agreement, written on a loose slip of paper:—

December the 26th, 1724.—Then agreed with Mr. Jno. Richmond for the making of Harnish for two Horses to draw a Hearse as under, viz.:—The Traces to be 7 foot long and a halph and 2 Inch Broad 2 Inch thick three fould of sole lether and three times stitched through the Rearings one sixfeen foot long one Eleven foot long three quarters and halph Ineh broad the Pad and housing seven Inch Broad 20 Inch long all of lether Inside and outside beley band four Inch broad five feet and a halph long the Briching four Inch Broad four Foot Long of leather without the lincks a Right strong shay sadle covered with Lether a paire of good Haning strong straps and collor all things both buckles links and bitts good and firme at the sight of any workeman the fettler to be Right good sole Leather well dressed and to be Deliured at Boulton on the first of February next and he is to Receive for the same the sum of Three pounds ten shilings as agreed ffor.

HENRY ESKRICKE.
JOHN RICHMOND.

In the margin the annexed addition is made:—"& also Rans 2 yds. long Cruper Back and Beley Band 2 leather gerths for the Sadle Rings and Buckles According to the Reste of the work. A paire of Brushes for the Horse Heads and a good whip at 5s. more. In all £3 15s. 00d. Test.:—JOSHUA CROMPTON."

The subjoined is copy of another letter forming a tender for part of the same work, and is of similar date, being addressed to "Mr. Hen: Eskithe at Boulton":—

Preston, Nouember ye 26th, 1724.—Sir,—Yours I received of ye 26th instant consearning a payer of harms for a hears. I shal be at boulten about wenesday next, for I shal Goe to Esqr. Bamford's with a new Charitt, when I shal make bould to send for you. I sett vp at Mr. berrys at bores head, and I will treate with you, which is the desier of your humble servat,

ED: ARCHBOLD.

The following is one more letter out of several of the same sort:—

Sr.,—if it suits yor. conuenency and The Rest of The gentlemen To have a meeting on Monday, The 4 of January, I Intend to come The Sunday before in order to wait upon yu for I beleve I shall have an opertunity of doeing yor. work sooner Then I expected but if you have anyways Altered yor. Resolution or would have mee prolong my coming pray Let me know before otherways I will com at the Time apointed, from yor. most obloiged Servent,

THOMAS WOOD.

Knuttsford, Decembr. 26, 1724.

The letter is addressed "to Mr. Henry Eskricke, churchwarden in Boulton, near Manchester," and the postage is marked "3d."

August 24, 1725.—"Agreed yt ninety pounds be levied upon ye inhabitants of ye parish for new seating or pewing ye two Ranks of Seats of ye north side of the Church, viz., such part or parts thereof as shall not be claimed by any particular persons, & made within ye time & according to ye manner as ye churchwardens shall direct; and other necessary & usual repairs & charges."

June 17, 1730.—"Agreed yt ye Sexton's yearly wages shall be seven pounds for tending & keeping ye clock & chimes in good repair, sweeping & cleaning ye Church as often as ye vicar & churchwardens shall require; for rubbing ye candlestick, cleaning ye plate, washing ye linnen & mending ye same. Tolling to prayers, cleaning ye leads & pipes, & all other things usually done by Sexton heretofore; and he is to find all his own materialls & instruments, & if he is found deficient in any thing above-menc'oned he is to be taken off in his rates at ye discretion of ye vicar & churchwardens."

April 26, 1732.—"Agreed by ye parishioners yn present & entered as a rule yt ye Dormant Windows i'th' Roofe serving to th' gallery o'th' South side o'th' church, shalbe wholely repaired by ye proprietors of ye sd. gallery, and not at ye parish charge."

July 19, 1733.—"Agreed yt ye beam now fallen occasioned by ye water falling in at ye Dormant Window, & ye roof, occasioned by ye fall thereof, shall both be wholely repaired by ye proprietors of ye gallery, or any other beam yt shall hereafter fall—occasioned by ye water coming under it; ye Dormant Windows shalbe wholely repaired by ye sd. proprietors of ye gallery for ye future, & not at ye parish charge."

March 8, 1737.—"Agreed yt if ye proprietors of ye gallery erected on ye southside of ye parish church shall neglect or refuse to make good ye damage occasioned by putting out Dormant Windows by ye original proprietors in order to lighten ye side gallery, on or before ye first day of June next ensuing, ye proprietors of ye sd. gallery shall be prosecuted by ye churchwardens yn in being, at ye publick cost & charge." Vicar Edward Whitehead, Henry Eskrick, Henry Moreton, John Horrocks, and John Battersby all signed this resolution.

June 6, 1739.—"Agreed yt ye Beam lying betwixt Sir John Bridgeman's Chancel & ye church shall be laid up & repaired by ye parishioners & Sr. John Bridgeman jointly at an equal charge, & yt ye parishioners do further agree to lay up at yr. charge three other beams on ye south Isle of ye sd. Church; ye middle beams lying betwixt ye three windows. And 'tis further agreed betwixt ye parishioners & ye proprietors of ye gallery of ye south Isle yt ye Six beams lying (vizt.) at each side of three windows shall be repaired by ye parish, & ye proprietors of ye sd. gallery at a joynt equal charge."

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE NEW PARISH CHURCH AND OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES—SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Proposed Restoration of the Old Edifice—Anonymous Offer of £30,000—Mr. Peter Ormrod's Proposal—Foundation Stone of the New Edifice—Day of Consecration: Imposing Ceremony: The Banquet—Additional Gifts—Description of the Edifice: Exterior and Interior—New Organ—New Windows—Reredos—Fraser-Powell Memorial—The Clock—Other Bolton Churches—Church of England Sunday Schools: Small Beginnings—Centenary of Sunday Schools: Local Demonstrations.

O much has been said in foregoing chapters anent the Old Parish Church, its associations and surroundings, that we cannot forbear at this point making some references to the new and handsome fabric now standing upon the site of its predecessor.

An idea that the ancient fane might be restored had well nigh been abandoned, and Vicar, officers, and congregation were anxiously casting about for the means of building a nobler and more commodious edifice, when Mr. Stephen Blair, J.P., bleacher, of Mill Hill (once

M.P. for the borough, and since the founder of the Blair Convalescent Hospital at Turton), generously offered a subscription of £1000, conditionally upon nine other gentlemen being found who would subscribe a like sum each. Mr. Blair was under the impression that a beautiful and commodious Church could be built for £20,000, £10,000 to be raised by subscriptions from the public. This was in the Summer of 1865. The year had not expired, however, when a more magnificent proposal was forthcoming—one that quickly raised the mists of doubts and perplexities as to ways and means—namely, an offer from a Boltonian, who did not wish his name to appear in connection with the matter. The proposal was to bear the cost of an entirely new edifice to the extent of £30,000. A Committee met to consider the offer, and called a meeting of the Vestry for the 20th November, when the proposition was accepted with the heartiest thanks to the princely giver. He, as it transpired a week before, was Mr. Peter Ormrod, of Halliwell Hall, one of the oldest, wealthiest, and best known cotton spinners in Bolton. Subsequently, Mr. Ormrod was heard to remark with reference to the desirability of re-building the Bolton Parish Church, "I became impressed with the idea that it was a rare opportunity afforded me of testifying my gratitude to Almighty God for his unnumbered mercies by offering to re-build the Church, thereby devoting to His service a portion of the bounty it hath pleased Him to bestow on me." Noble words, and as nobly conceived!

Scarcely had the echoes of that memorable service on Sunday, the 8th April, 1866, died away; hardly had the singing of the hymns so reverently and touchingly rendered at the close of that last service in the old lov'd Church ceased to reverberate across the burial ground of the forefathers of the town than the work of demolition was begun. Stone after stone disappeared until nothing of the cherished structure was left for eye and mind to dwell upon; then the excavations for the grander edifice were dug, and on the 27th April, 1867, the foundation stone was formally and appropriately laid by the donor in the presence of a large and representative assembly. Four years elapsed, during which time divine service was held in the upper schoolroom, and St. Peter's Day, 29th June, 1871, came round, when the Church was declared completed, and was consecrated to the service of Almighty God by the beloved Dr. James Fraser,

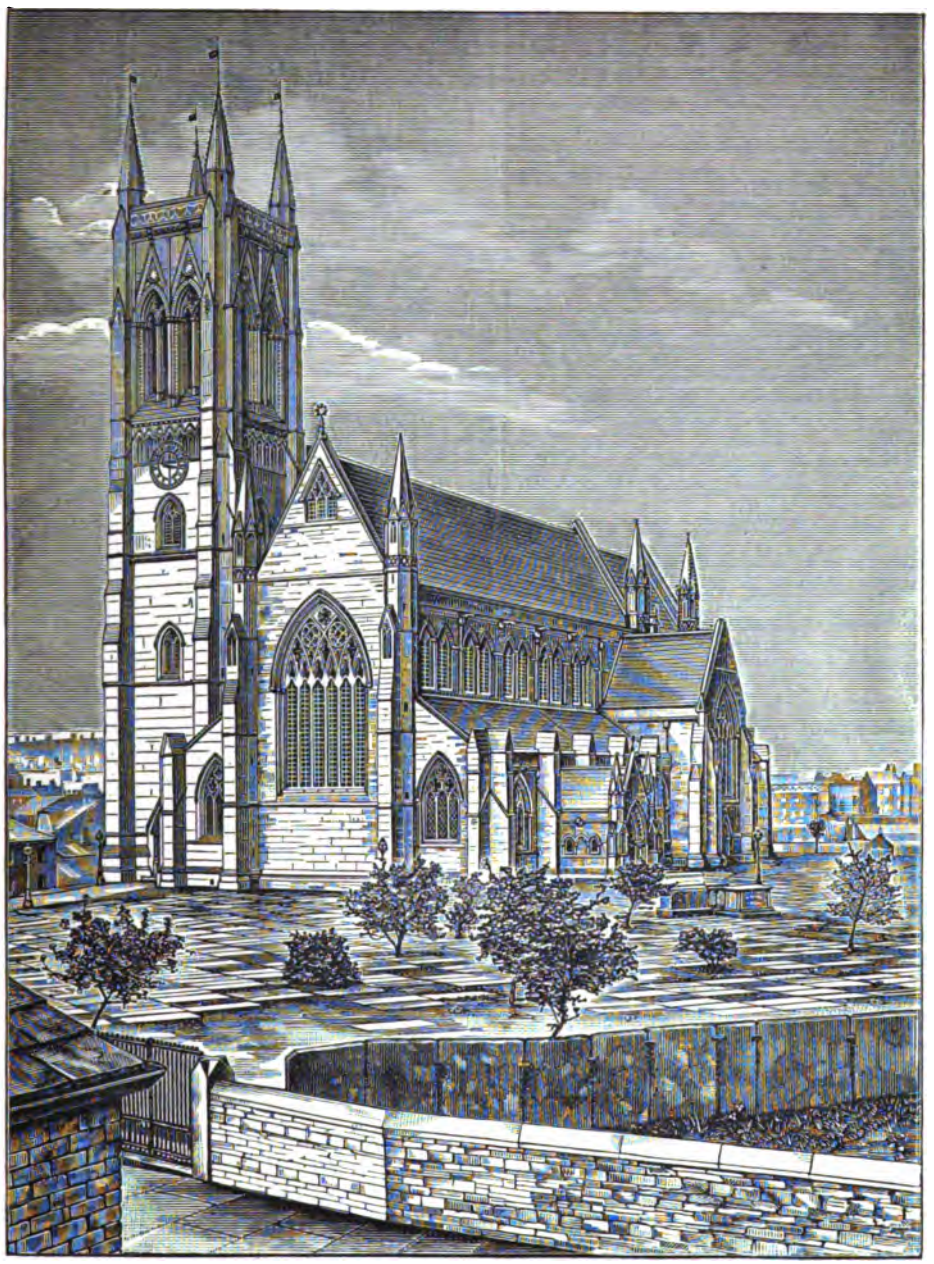
Lord Bishop of Manchester, who succeeded the first Bishop of the diocese, Dr. Prince Lee, on the death of the latter in 1869—he who on the 27th February, 1866, granted the faculty for re-building.

On the morning of consecration Deansgate, Bradshawgate, Churchgate, and Silverwell Street wore quite a festive appearance, bunting having been hung out at an early hour, and shortly after nine o'clock people began to assemble in the vicinity of the new Church, while the bells rung out merry peals. At ten o'clock a procession was formed in the Church Institute yard, adjoining that of the Parish Church, and marched out into Silverwell Street and into Bradshawgate, thence *viâ* Churchgate to the sacred edifice, through dense masses of the spectators. Heading the main body of the procession were policemen, 19 men and 23 boys of the choir, surpliced; and Church officials. Following were clergy from Bolton, the surrounding district, and several parts of Lancashire. The Archdeacons of Manchester and Lancaster (the Venerable G. H. G. Anson, M.A., and Venerable W. Hornby, M.A.) were in the procession, as were the Bishops of Manchester and of the Mauritius (Dr. V. W. Ryan), Canon Powell (Vicar of Bolton and Rural Dean), Thos. Lever Rushton, Esq. (one of the Churchwardens), Peter Ormrod, Esq. (the donor of the Church), the members of Parliament for the borough (John Hick, Esq., and Lieutenant-Colonel Gray), magistrates, members of the Town Council, headed by the Mayor (Thos. Walmsley, Esq., J.P.), Ex-Mayors, and the Town Clerk (Mr. R. G. Hinnell, who was a Churchwarden at the time), and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood not in public office; the rear of the procession being brought up with policemen and members of the Borough Fire Brigade.

At the Church porch, in the tower portion, the petition praying for consecration was read to the Bishop of Manchester. It set forth that the new Church would afford accommodation for 1000 persons in their attendance at divine worship, namely, by 829 fixed sittings and 171 moveable chairs; that the cost of the erection of the edifice amounted to between £30,000 and £40,000, and that it had been supplied with the necessary furniture. It was hoped that the Bishop would consecrate and dedicate the Church to the honour and worship of Almighty

God and divine uses, by the name of the Parish Church of "Saint Peter, Bolton-le-Moors aforesaid, for ever." Dr. Fraser gave his consent as prayed for, and the procession entered the Church while the 24th Psalm, beginning "The earth is the Lord's and all that therein is," was sung by the choir and a congregation thronging every part. The sentence of consecration was duly read and signed, the old version of the 100th Psalm was joined in and morning prayer followed, Canon Powell being the reader; the lessons were read by the two Archdeacons named, the Epistle by Canon Birch, Rector of Prestwich and Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, and the Gospel by Bishop Ryan. The Bishop of the diocese preached the sermon from St. Matthew, xvi., 18–19, "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Subsequently the Bishop and Archdeacons administered Holy Sacrament to a large company of worshippers.

A banquet, attended by some 400 persons was partaken of in the upper room of the Parish Church Schools at the close of divine service, the Vicar of Bolton presiding, when the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed, as were "The Bishops present, and the Archdeacons and Clergy of the Diocese" (responded to by Dr. Fraser), "Peter Ormrod, Esq., the re-founder of the Parish Church of Bolton" (acknowledged by Mr. Ormrod), and other sentiments. The Earl of Bradford, Mr. John Hick, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Gray, M.P., and James Ormrod and T. L. Rushton, Esqrs., were among the speakers. In closing the proceedings, Canon Powell remarked that he not only had to thank Mr. Peter Ormrod for his noble gift: he had to thank Mrs. Ormrod for a handsome silver gilt salver for the alms of the Church, ladies of the congregation for raising a subscription of £120 for chancel furniture, a Bolton gentleman (Mr. T. W. Holden) for a handsome brass lectern, the Mayor for a verger's staff, and other ladies and gentlemen had to be thanked for gifts of books, and a brass rest for the Communion table. In the evening, the Right Rev. Dr. Ryan preached in the Church from Deuteronomy xxxii., 1-4, and services were continued on subsequent days.



Messrs. Paley and Austin, of Lancaster, were the architects employed, and the following is to be taken as their description of the Church :—

The new Church may be described architecturally as geometric Gothic, and has been designed in the style of many beautiful old Churches erected by our ancestors during the early portion of the fourteenth century, a period when the highest point of excellence was reached, not only in England, but on the Continent, of the beautiful architecture commonly known under the general name of Gothic.

The building in plan follows the not unusual ancient arrangement of nave and chancel, each having aisles, separated by a short transept. An arcade of six lofty pointed arches divides the nave from the aisles, and these arches carry a lofty clerestory, having a range of double two-light windows in each bay or compartment. In length, the nave is 114 feet by 30 feet between the walls, the total width between walls of the two aisles being 67 feet 6 inches. The side aisles are lighted by six three-light windows, having rich tracery of varied pattern, two large windows lighting the transepts. At the west end two staircase turrets giving access to the parapets, terminating with rich pinnacles, and a large six-light window, are conspicuous features.

The chancel is 42 feet in length and 28 feet wide, divided from the chancel aisles by an arcade of three richly moulded and carved arches. The chancel has a clerestory of different and more elaborate design than the naves ; between the windows and the arches runs a delicate arcade, giving great richness to this portion of the Church. A beautiful groined inner roof or ceiling (56 feet to the apex), constructed of timber, and decorated by Clayton and Bell, with figures and ornament, rich tiled floor, carved oak stalls for the clergy and choir, altar rails, and elaborately worked velvet altar cloth (by French), appropriately embellish this portion of the sacred edifice.

The tower (28 feet square) occupies a rather unusual position on the north side of the north aisle, but has been so placed by the architect in order that it may become a conspicuous feature as seen from Deansgate. In height, the tower measures 180 feet from the base to the top of the weather vane on the pinnacles, and 142 feet to the top of the parapet, and is divided into four stages by stringcourses, &c. ; the upper stage, with the range of eight elaborately ornamented windows, containing the peal of eight bells, belonging to the old church ; the stage next in order may be considered the clock chamber ; whilst immediately below is the ringers' room and the museum ; the lowest, or ground stage, serving as the north porch and entrance.

The porch, or principal entrance, is placed on the south side (the second bay from the west end), and is adorned by richly moulded doorways, having granite and marble shafts, and a stone groined roof.

The vestry occupies a position northwards of the east end of the chancel aisle, and has a high-pitched roof terminating with a metal cross at the apex.

The roofs (of red pine) are of massive open timber, showing the construction, and boarded, covered with green Westmorland slates.

The greater portion of the floor is occupied by handsomely carved oak seats. The Church contains sittings for about 830 people. The aisles and passages are laid with ornamental tiles (manufactured by Minton), the chancel and altar having a more enriched pattern than the nave. The doors are of massively framed oak, having hinges, handles, &c., of elaborately hammered iron-work. Squared worked stone, from the Longridge Quarries, Preston, was used in the construction of the edifice.

The total cost of edifice, fittings, and furniture, totalled eventually to about £45,000.

To Mr. E. G. Paley really belongs the credit of designing and planning, his partner, Mr. Austin, being responsible for the later details of the work. Messrs. Cooper and Tullis, Preston, were entrusted with the building contract. Messrs. Hart, Son, Peard, and Co., London, had charge of the gas fixtures; centre pillars, brackets and standards being efficient and artistic mediums. The organ used in the old church was re-placed in the new edifice, after being renovated and cleaned by Messrs.

Gray and Davison, of London* On the 6th November, 1882, however, a newly-constructed organ, by Messrs. Hill, was opened by Mr. W. Best, the Church organist, after the old instrument had been removed as unfitted for further use, the series of services extending over five subsequent evenings. Among the preachers were the Archbishop of York (Dr. Thomson) and the Bishop of Manchester (Dr. Fraser).

It may be mentioned that during the time the organ was undergoing reconstruction by Messrs. Hill and Son, of London, their extensive establishment caught fire, and the stock being of a very inflammable nature, damage was done to the amount of several thousand pounds. Amongst the materials destroyed were the pipes belonging to the pedal open diapason and a few of the trombone pipes belonging to the Bolton old organ; but fortunately the remaining portion of the old pipes were saved and have been incorporated with the new† The entire action of the organ, with the exception of a pedal sound board, is new and is constructed on the best modern principles. Many of the pipes are also new, but those belonging to the old organ, by Mr. Samuel Green, have been carefully preserved and revoiced. The instrument consists of four complete manuals, compass of each CC to A, 58 notes; and pedal clavier, compass CCCC to F, 30 notes. The specification of the stops shows great organ, CC to A, $4\frac{3}{4}$ octaves, to have a total of 980 wood and metal pipes; choir organ, same compass, 406 pipes; echo organ, a like range, 452 pipes; swell organ, 846 pipes; and pedal organ, CCCC to F, $2\frac{1}{2}$ octaves, 210; total number of pipes, 2900. The couplers, pneumatic apparatus, organ front, two new hydraulic engines (which act upon separate feeders and force the wind into the reservoirs within the organ), have been constructed only after the most careful forethought.

The Slade and Bolling windows that were fixed in the Old Church were brought into the new one, the Slade memorial being erected at the eastern end of the north chancel aisle, and the Bolling window at the east end of the south chancel aisle. A new and handsome stained glass window was put in at the east end of the Church to commemorate the noble gift of Mr. Peter Ormrod, the fund necessary (£845) having been raised by

* See *Memorials of the Bolton Parish Church Organs* (p. 31). Jas. C. Scholes, 1882.
†*Memorials of the Bolton Parish Church Organs* (p. 35).

public subscriptions. The subjects are taken from events in the life of St. Peter. The window consists of seven lights, and tracery in accordance with the style of the stonework. The centre light contains three subjects. In the upper part is a figure of our Lord seated in majesty on a golden throne. Above and below are the four Evangelistic symbols, and a rich background of cherubim. Beneath is the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, descending upon the Apostles, who are represented in a group below. The seven gifts of the Holy Ghost are inscribed upon scrolls around. At the foot of this light the Apostles are shown dispersing to fulfil their mission of preaching the Gospel to all the world. Each of the six sidelights contains four subjects, two large and two small; the large groups recording the chief events of the Saviour's life, in which St. Peter took a prominent part; and the small ones the life of the great Apostle himself, as recorded in the Book of Acts. In the three large pieces of tracery at the top of the window are angels bearing scrolls, on which are inscribed the names of the Holy Trinity, and the remainder of the tracery is filled with angels in adoration, and foliage, on a rich ruby background. Messrs. Hardman and Co., of Birmingham, are responsible for the construction of the window. The same firm executed the large stained glass window placed in the south transept and known as the Ormrod Memorial window. It owes its placement to Mrs. Peter Ormrod, and is in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hardcastle, of Firwood. The window consists of five lights and tracery, two groups in each light, one large and one small. The large groups of the three centre lights show the Resurrection of our Lord from the tomb, with angels adoring, and soldiers below either sleeping or in attitude of fear. The large groups of the dexter light represent the appearance of Christ to Mary Magdalen after His Resurrection. In the sinister light is our Lord's appearance to St. Thomas, who is represented putting his finger into his Master's side. The small groups below read from the dexter side, and represent our Lord's appearances after the Resurrection. In the month of April, 1884, a large memorial window was erected at the west end of the Church by Mrs. T. L. Rushton, widow of Thomas Lever Rushton, Esq., J.P., an Alderman of the borough, who died 8th February, 1883,—a gentleman mentioned in preceding pages. The design of the window is taken from

manifestations in the Old Testament: Jacob's Vision of the Angels, the Burning Bush, Aaron in the Tabernacle, the Vision of Isaiah described in Chapter vi., Ezekiel's Vision while on the banks of the Chebar, and Daniel's Vision of Christ as given in Chapter x. There are twelve other subjects also; in addition there are groupings of angels, and the general tracery work is very artistic; the glass is by Messrs. Hardman & Co. Memorial windows have also been erected to Thomas Rushton and Elizabeth his wife; to Jane, relict of Ralph Fletcher, of The Hollins; to Benjamin Hick; to John and Ann Mawdsley; to Susan and Maria Jardine, benefactresses of the Church; and to James Knowles, of Eagley Bank.

On Easter Sunday, 21st April, 1878, special services were held in the Parish Church in celebration of the unveiling of an artistically-designed and richly-illuminated reredos, the gift of Mrs. Peter Ormrod, widow of the founder of the noble edifice. The reredos is 27 feet long, and is in three divisions or compartments. The one in the centre is 15 feet high and contains three illuminated panels and four smaller ones, the subject of the principal panel being the Last Supper. Traceried heads and carved canopies are conspicuous, also a cornice, and worked angle pinnacles with moulded and battlemented square caps. There are two rows of four panels in the side compartments, on which are inscribed the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. The designs are by Messrs. Paley & Austin, of Lancaster.

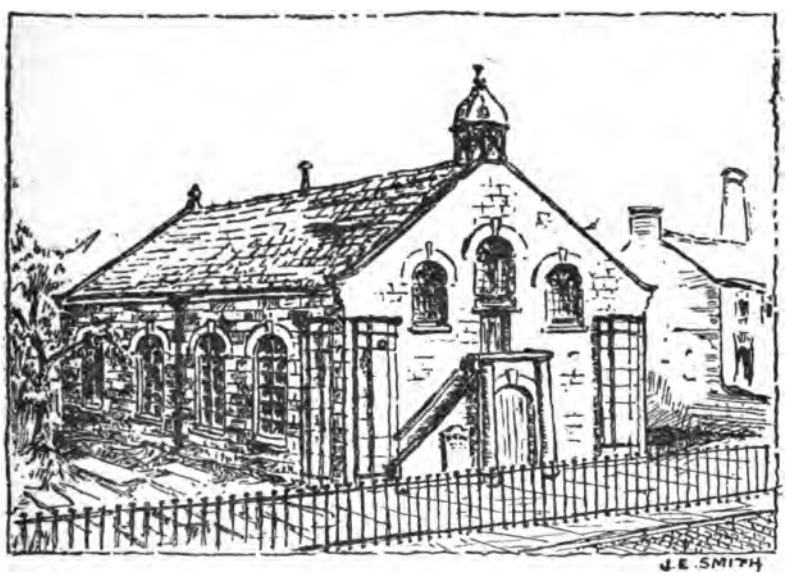
Another striking object in the sacred edifice is a handsome and highly-ornamented timber screen provided with seats, and placed at the west end, and subscribed to by Boltonians as a token of the esteem in which they regarded the late Bishop Fraser and Canon Powell. The memorial was erected upon the retirement of the late Vicar, and is generally admired. Messrs. Thwaites & Reed are the makers of the clock in the tower. The instrument is in a cast-iron horizontal frame; all the wheels are of gun metal. The Cambridge chimes are played, the hours being struck upon the tenor bell. The "bob" weighs 2cwts.

In addition to the sacred edifice described in the foregoing pages of this chapter, there are in the town eighteen other Churches and six mission rooms connected with the Church of

England. These Churches and dates of consecration are:—All Saints', All Saints' Street, 1726 (re-built and consecrated 22nd March, 1871); St. George's, Bath Street, 1796; Holy Trinity, Trinity Street, 11th Sept., 1827; Emmanuel, Cannon Street, 25th June, 1838; Christ Church, Blackburn Street (formerly known as Ebenezer Methodist Chapel), 2nd July, 1844; St. Stephen and All Martyrs', Lever Bridge, June, 1845; St. Paul's, New Road, Halliwell, 22nd June, 1848; St. John's, Latimer Street, 19th December, 1849; St. Paul's, Moor Lane, 26th November, 1863; St. Mark's, Fletcher Street, 25th April, 1871; St. James', Waterloo Street, 18th May, 1871; St. Luke's, Chorley Old Road, Halliwell, 21st December, 1874; St. Thomas's, off New Road, Halliwell, 17th July, 1875; St. Matthew's, Mount Street, 13th September, 1876; St. Bartholomew's, Nelson Street, 23rd August, 1879; St. George the Martyr, St. Helens Road, 6th March, 1880; All Souls', Astley Street, 30th June, 1881; The Saviour's, Deane Road, 24th September, 1885.

All the above-named Churches have been built by public subscriptions, save Holy Trinity, erected by funds from the National Exchequer, and All Souls' and The Saviour's, funds for which were provided under the will of the late Nathaniel Greenhalgh, Esq., and by Thomas Greenhalgh, Esq. (brothers), Thornidykes, Sharples, and which edifices were erected under the personal supervision of Thomas Greenhalgh, Esq. St. George's, Holy Trinity, All Souls', and The Saviour's Churches are provided with towers and a peal of eight bells each. Holy Trinity is built of stone, the other three of brick. Christ Church and St. George the Martyr's are of brick, St. Stephen and All Martyrs' is terra cotta work; the remainder are of stone. One or more beautiful stained glass windows may be seen in nearly all the Churches. To each Church commodious school premises are attached for Sunday and week-day purposes. In the majority of cases they were opened for divine worship prior to the erection of the existing Churches. The schools were not the first of their character in the several parishes—they are what may be seen to-day: the growth from the humblest beginnings in the majority of cases. A reference for instance to the life of Canon Slade in chapter 29 of this volume, will show what led to the present school buildings connected with the Parish Church Schools; cottages in the neighbourhood of Chapel Street, and

subsequently a building in the churchyard were requisitioned in turn for Sunday School purposes in connection with All Saints,' or the Chapel in the Fields as originally termed (Fig. 36); the first school belonging to St. George's Church—a very insignificant erection—was opened upon the site of the existing commodious premises in the year 1804; and a cottage school was opened in Holy Trinity parish at the close of the year 1833; Sunday



(Fig. 36.)

school lessons were imparted in Emmanuel Church from January, 1840. In the parish of Christ Church, again, the Establishment had a Sunday School in a cottage adjoining the Church in Blackburn Street, and not long before the opening of the present century Sunday School services were held in St. Stephen's parish on the highway under the aqueduct of the Bolton and Bury Canal, secondly in two cottages in Hag-End Brow, and thirdly, school premises were opened in 1808 in a hollow on the south-west side of the school buildings at present standing. Prior to the opening of St. Paul's Church Schools in

Moor Lane premises were occupied as a mission room and Day and Sunday Schools, the former from 1857 and the latter from 1858, in Blackhorse Street; four cottages in Lever Street were utilised for schools in St. Mark's ecclesiastical district before the erection of those now standing in Fletcher Street; St. James', Waterloo Street, was first known, in 1862, as being in a brick building meant to serve in after years for cottages, and in which divine worship was held for years, as were the cottages in St. Mark's; and Church mission services and Day and Sunday Schools were held in what is now the parish of St. George the Martyr, first in cottages in St. Helens Road, and from 1862 in what was known as the Iron Church, in the same thoroughfare.

Adopting a sentiment of Wordsworth, small service was true service while it lasted in connection with mission rooms and schools; and it may be added now that the borders have increased, the divine worship and class lessons within them are, or should be, all the more real because of the small beginnings.

It will not be uninteresting to add here that Saturday 26th June, 1880, and Saturday 3rd July, of the same year, are in very truth "red letter days" in the history of the Church of England Sunday Schools in Bolton; on these two days was celebrated the Centenary of the Sunday School movement in England. As previously stated, a "prize ticket," bearing date 1774, and apparently relating to a Sunday School in connection with the Bolton Parish Church, was discovered under the boarding, in that part of the old edifice where the scholars were wont to assemble, when it was demolished, but the proof is not clear that what may be fairly termed a Sunday School, as at present understood, was in vogue. At any rate, the celebrations on the dates named in the opening sentence of this paragraph were to mark the foundation, in 1780, of the system inaugurated by Robert Raikes, of Gloucester, and were held in common with similar festivals throughout the country. In the afternoon of the 26th June, a united service was held in the Parish Church, which was densely thronged, clergy, school officials, teachers, and scholars composing the great majority in the vast congregation. The service was opened by the singing of the "Old Hundredth" Psalm, and the Vicar of Bolton (Rev. Canon Powell) offered prayers. Appropriate lessons were read, psalms sung, and the second and third hymns were "Soldiers of Christ arise," and

"Come let us join our cheerful songs." Rev. W. Lefroy, M.A., Vicar of St. Andrew's, Liverpool, and now Dean of Norwich, preached a powerful sermon from 3 Epistle St. John, 7 and 8—"Because that for His name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers of the truth." "Hush'd was the evening hymn" was sung at the close, and tea was afterwards partaken of in the Parish Church Schools. In the evening the Albert Hall, Town Hall, was occupied by Sunday School workers and scholars, and a meeting was held, presided over by Canon Powell. Rev. W. Lefroy, Alderman Nicholson, J.P. (St. George's), Rev. C. P. Roberts, M.A. (Vicar of Peel), Mr. James Finney (St. Mark's), Mr. J. Casstles, Rev. J. G. Doman, M.A. (Vicar of St. Mark's), and Mr. G. Monk (St. Paul's) also took part in the proceedings, in the order named. Saturday afternoon, 3rd July, was characterised by a vast gathering on the Town Hall Square, and a monstre procession. Unfortunately the weather was stormy, and marred, somewhat, the proceedings. All was good humour and enthusiasm, however, and the spectacle was magnificent in the extreme, banners, bannerettes, mottoes, &c., being conspicuous, while bands played bravely, and with fine effect. Medals were worn by the scholars and their leaders. Prior to the immense concourse leaving the Square the "Old Hundredth" Psalm, and a verse of the National Anthem were sung with telling effect, under the conductorship of Mr. Richard Williamson, choirmaster, Bolton Parish Church. The route of the procession—the schools leaving the Square according to date of institution—was Newport Street, Trinity Street, Bradshawgate, Silverwell Street, Churchgate, Deansgate, Knowsley Street, St. George's Road, to the junction with the Chorley New Road and Chorley Old Road, returning by St. George's Road to Knowsley Street, and on to Oxford Street and the Town Hall Square, thence to the respective schools for refreshments. The thoroughfares in the centre of the town were lined with spectators, and a profusion of bunting lent additional gaiety to the scene. It is estimated that the procession was over two miles in length, and that 17,000 clergy, officers, teachers, and scholars took part.

They were from the following schools:—Parish, Walmsley and Eagley Mills branch, All Saints', St. George's,

Trinity, Emmanuel and Gate Street branch (the nucleus of the present The Saviour's schools), Christ Church, St. Paul's (Astley Bridge), St. Paul's (Halliwell), St. Paul's (Moor Lane), St. Mark's, St. James', St. Matthew's, St. Luke's, Bradshaw, St. Bartholomew's, St. George the Martyr, and All Souls'. St. John's scholars were not represented, nor several of the schools in the rural districts.*

* It will be interesting to note that when a united Sunday School procession took place in Bolton in 1838, in celebration of Queen Victoria's coronation, and when meetings were held in connection with it, the schools and numbers in each were :—Parish, 1529 ; All Saints', 322 ; St. George's, 750; Trinity, 300; St. Stephen and All Martyrs', 400 ; Bradshaw, 250 ; Ridgway Gates and Fletcher Street Wesleyan, 2000 ; New Jerusalem, 120 ; Duke's Alley and Mawdsley Street Independent, 1000; Roman Catholics, 1000 ; New Connexion, 1200 ; Baptists, 700 ; Unitarians, 320 ; Independent Methodists, 700 ; Wesleyan Refugees (Moor Lane) 1800.

CHAPTER XXV.

VICARS OF BOLTON (I.)

Errors regarding "Two so-called Vicars of Bolton" Corrected—Vicar Bolton's Claim to Landgrowths Disputed—Dissolution of the Monasteries—Bishop of Chester Patron of Bolton Living—The Advowson again Transferred—Another Correction—Spiritual Condition of the Town in 1563*—Vicar Smythe's Obligation—A Presentation Deed—Resignation of Vicar Saunders.*

JOHN DE SANWYOG.—CIRCA 1254.

THERE is every reason to believe that this was the name of the Vicar of Bolton at the period mentioned. At that time he acted as one of the witnesses to a deed of surrender made by William de Bourynden to Adam Stanford, Archdeacon of Chester, of two acres of land in Lever.

JOHN DE CHARNELES.—1322.

On the "8th day before the Kalends of July, 1322," [June 22nd], a letter presenting John de Charneles (son of George de Charneles) to the Church of Bolton was handed in to the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry by Nicholas de Charneles. On the same day a letter of inquiry was issued to the Archdeacon of Chester, or his official, to inquire into the circumstances concerning the vacancy of Bolton Church. The first-named writing remains with other instruments amongst the Church papers at

Lichfield.* Whether John de Charneles was ever properly instituted to the Vicariate does not transpire.

RICHARD DE WAVERTON.—BEFORE 1334.

Little is known of Richard de Waverton's occupancy of the Bolton Vicarage beyond the fact that such was the case. From the records at Lichfield† it appears that he was the immediate predecessor of Thomas Azard in 1334, and it is not at all unlikely that he owed his preferment to the Monks of Maresay. Perhaps for about a dozen years his priesthood was spent in Bolton. This living he resigned in 1334, and on the "7th Kalends August" [July 24th] of that year he was instituted to the Rectory or Vicarage of Prestwich on the nomination of "Thomas filius Adam de Prestwich," in succession to "Nicholas de Trafford, clerk."‡ For what length of time he officiated at Prestwich, or whether his removal was by death or resignation, is not recorded.

THOMAS AZARD.—1334.

This priest was admitted to the vacant Vicarage of the Church of Bolton "on the 15th day before the Kalends of November, 1334," [October 16th], at Ichington, being instituted to the same on the presentation of the "Religious men the Prior and Chapter of Maresay of the Order of Sempryngham, the true patrons." A mandate was issued to the official of the Archdeacon of Chester to induct him, which was accordingly done, whereupon Azard swore obedience.§

THOMAS DE PRESTBOLD.—BEFORE 1351.

"Thomas de Prestbold, or Prestwold, held the Vicariate of Bolton before the year 1351, and only vacated it on his death, which occurred "on the Tuesday next before the Feast of St. Michael."¶

RANULPH DE BOLTON.—1351.

At Legh, on the 4th day before the Ides of October, 1351, Ranulph (Ralph) de Bolton, chaplain, was admitted to the vacant Vicarage of the Church of Bolton, and was instituted to the same

* The Diocesan Registry, Lichfield, *Liber*. 2, p. 4.
† Piccope's MSS., vol. 18, pp. 7, 77.
‡ Piccope's MSS., College Library, Manchester, vol. xviii., p. 77.
§ The Diocesan Registry, Lichfield, *Liber*. 2, p. 110.
¶ The Diocesan Registry, Lichfield, *Liber*. 2, p. 129.

on the presentation of the religious men the Prior and Chapter of Maersay, the true patrons. A mandate was issued to the official of the Archdeacon to induct him, which duty was accordingly performed; and the new Vicar swore obedience, and also that he would "make corporal residence."* He died "on the Saturday next before the Feast of All Saints, 1373."

HENRY DE SMETHELEY.—1373.

He filled the vacancy caused by the death of Bolton, being admitted "on the 7th day before the Kalends of December, 1373." At the time of his nomination he was of the order of priesthood. He was instituted either by the Archdeacon of Chester or his deputy, on the presentation of the "Prior and Chapter of Mathersay," the patrons. The usual oaths of obedience and continual residence in his Vicarage were made by Smetheley.

SIR JOHN COVENTRY.—1460.

In a deed in the possession of T. Weld-Blundell, Esq., an interesting circumstance is recorded as to the appointment of Sir John Coventry as "vicare of the kirke of Bolton."† This writing shows that the undoubted and real patrons of Bolton Church were the Prior and Convent of Madursay, or Maresay. It appears that a corody,‡ or levy, out of the house of Maresay belonged to the lords of Heaton. It was evidently in lieu of this levy that the Prior of Maresay granted the patronage of Bolton living to William Heaton for one turn. The following is a transcript of the deed as copied by Mr. J. Bailey, F.S.A., for the Chetham Society Publications (vol. cvii., p. 29) :—

To all trwe crysten men in cryste thys p'sent wrytinge heryng seyng or understondyng hele in owr lorde eu'lastyng Son that yt ys merltorye ande nedefull to eu'ry trwe crysten mon in cryste to ber wytnesse & recorde to the truthe knawez us *John Bradshagh* Esquier *Ric p'scoll* Elder Jentylman *Ric' Warde* Jentylman *Robte Warton* Jentylman *Dakyn heton* Jentylman *Ric' Mersshe* yoman *Rog' Penulbur* yoman *Elys Penulbur* yoman *Thom's Crichlawe* yoman *Elys Bothe* yoman *Elys Draper* yoman & *John Coventre* vicare of the kyrke of Bolton to ber' wytnesse of truthe & consience that *Ric' Heton* heyr of Heton gafe to *Will' Entwysell* hys cosyn a corody oth'wyse calde a lyvere in the hovse of Madursay the which corodye oth'wyse calde a lyvere wos dwe & acustomed of olde tyme to the heyrez of Heton Patroners somtyme of the chirch of Bolton of auncyent tyme the which *Will'* wos seaset th'in' for terme of lyfe by the gyfte of the saide *Ric'* cosyn to the said *Will'* & he benele & peasble occupyet the saide corrodye oth' wayes calde a lyvere wt. outen any interrupton or lettyng And aft' the decesse of the saide *Will'* the saide *Ric'* gafe yt to *Olyv' Entwysell* his cosyn for terme of lyfe & he benle & peasble occupiet the saide corrodye oth'wayez calde a lyvere wt. outen any

* The Diocesan Registry, Lichfield, *Liber.* 2, p. 129.

† Canon Raines, in *Notitia Cestriensis* (vol. ii., p. 9), erroneously suggests that this refers to "Bolton-on-the-Swale, near Marrick, in Yorkshire."

‡ Sustentation due from an abbey to the King, and sometimes to a subject.

interupton or lettyng Ande aft' the decesse of the sayde *Olyv' Will' Heton* son of the sayde *Ric' Heton* gafe yt to *Robt' Heton* hys Eame [uncle] & he benele & peasble occupied the saide corodye oth'wyse calde a lyvere wt. outen any int'rupton or lettyng Ande aft' the decesse of the saide *Robt'* come the *Pryor of Madursay* to Bolton & labourde to *Elys Entwysell* to go wt. hym to *Heton* ande ther they wer acordet & agreyd that *Sir John Couentr'* now vicar of the kyrke of Bolton shulde halfe the vicarye of the kyrke of Bolton so that the saide *Will' Heton* shulde clayme no corodye oth'wyse calde a lyvere wt. in the house of Madursay aforesaide duryng the lyfe of the saide *Will' Heton* Ande to this our p'sent recorde of truth & conscience as we v'rele knawen for travthe by waye of conscience to these p'sentmentez we haven sett our sealz Gyfen at Bolton the xxiijte. daye of the Mone of Marc' in the reigne of kyng Edwarde the furthe the fyrste yer.

Vicar John Coventry did not long occupy the Bolton Vicarage. He passed in his "free resignation" towards the end of the year 1469.

WILLIAM PERSYVALL.—1469.

The successor of Sir John Coventry to Bolton Church was William Persyvall, chaplain. In November, 1469, he was instituted to the "perpetual vicarage of the prebendal Church of Bolton, in the Diocese of Coventry and Lichfield," by John Fox, Vicar in Spirituals at Lichfield, "on the presentation of the Religious men the Prior and Chapter of Mathersay in the Diocese of York, true patrons," and after having "sworn obedience" a mandate was issued to the Archdeacon of Chester, or his official, to induct him. The institution deed records that Persyvall was admitted on the "free resignation of John Coventry, the last Vicar there," and that the perpetual Vicar was canonically instituted in the same with all its rights and appurtenances according to the form of the Legative Constitution in that behalf set forth on the presentation of the religious men the Prior and Chapter of Mathersay."*

GILES LEYVER.—CIRCA 1486.

Giles, or Egidius Leyver, in all probability, next succeeded to the Vicariate of Bolton. He was presented by the Prior and Chapter of Maresay, but at what date is not known. At all events he was holding office on the 10th August, 1486, when he made a grant to Katherine, daughter of William Heton, Esq.† There is every reason to believe that Giles Lever was a member of the family of that name of Little Lever, with which house the Heatons were connected by marriage.‡ He

*The Diocesan Registry, Lichfield. *Liber.* 12, p. 104.
†*Weld-Blundell Deeds.*
‡Croston's edition of *Baines's Lancashire.*

continued in the Vicariate until his death, which occurred about the year 1503.*

JAMES SMETHELEYE.—1503.

On the 19th January, 1503-4, James Smetheleye, chaplain, was admitted to the "perpetual vicarage of the prebendal Church of Bolton," vacant by the "natural death of Giles Leyver, the last Vicar there." He was canonically instituted on the presentation of the "Prior and Chapter of the Priory of Maressey in the Diocese of York." After having taken the usual oaths of obedience, &c., the formal mandate for his induction was issued to the Archdeacon of Chester.† The name of this minister occurs in a grant from Christopher Hulton, of Farnworth, dated August 16th, 18 Henry VII.‡ (not Henry VIII., as stated by Mr. Croston's *History of Lancashire*, vol. iii., p. 174).

At this stage it would be well to refer briefly to the mistakes which have appeared in print regarding two "so-called" Vicars of Bolton. The latest edition (1890) of *Baines's History of Lancashire*, vol. iii., p. 174, states that James Smetheley's successor to this position was "William Knyght, *circa* 1523;" and who in turn was followed by "James Harrington, *circa* 1530." For his authority in the first case the editor of that work gives the "*Dis*positions§ and Examinations Henry VIII., vol. x., R. VII., Wapentake of Salford," and states that "the name of Dns William Knyght occurs as *vicar* of Bolton." Reference being made as directed, it is apparent the quotation has either been wrongly read or misconstrued. The correct reading is "Dr. Knyght is *parson* of Church of Bolton, &c." (see succeeding notes on Vicar James Bolton). A glance at the *Lichfieldensia Fasti* will clearly show that this William Knyght was Archdeacon of Chester from 1522 to 1541, on the creation of Chester See. By this position he was legally authorised to "admit and induct" the Vicars of Bolton. He likewise, by virtue of his office, received or collected the revenues of the glebe or prebendary lands appertaining to Bolton Church, out

*Diocesan Registry, Lichfield. *Liber.*, Vol. 13, p. 53.

†Diocesan Registry, Lichfield. *Liber.*, Vol. 13, p. 53.

‡Patent Rolls, Duchy of Lancaster Records, Public Record Office, London. The feofees mentioned in this deed were Robert Radcliffe, clerk; Ralph Standish; Edward Asheton, Esq.; Ralph Leycestre; James Smetheley, clerk; Ralph Tildesley; Gerrard Asheton; Thurstan Tildesley, Esq.; Elis Hulton; and Lawrence Asheton. They were appointed to carry out the will of John Hulton, of Farnworth.—*Old Bolton Families*, by Wm. Brimelow.

§A misprint for "Depositions."

of which he allowed the Vicar £10 per annum. To say that Dr. Knyght never preached and otherwise officiated in the Church of Bolton would perhaps be going beyond the question; certain it is that he could not hold the Vicariate in his capacity as Archdeacon, especially when it is seen in following notes on James Bolton that from 1513 to 1556 the position was filled by Mr. Bolton. Rev. Canon Raines in his MSS. states that Dr. Knyght was "Rector," and not "Vicar," of Bolton, and he is unquestionably right.

(Transcript.)

BOLTON VICARIA.

JACOBUS BOLTON VICARIUS IBIDEM.

Valet in redd' mansion' cum gardin' ibm per annum iij^{s}. Item in pensione annuatim recept' ex^{a} eccliam de Lychefielde predict x^{li}; suma valoris x^{li} iij^{s}.

X^{a} inde.....xx^{s} iij^{d} obq.

(Translation.)

BOLTON VICARAGE.

JAMES BOLTON, VICAR THERE.

Is worth in the rent of the mansion, with the garden there, by the year 3s. Item in a pension annually received, £10. Sum of the value, £10 3s. 0d.

A tenth thereof..... 20s. 3$\frac{3}{4}$d.

(Transcript.)

CANTARIA APUD BOLTON PREDICT.

Ex fundacone Jacobi Harryngton m$^{ri's}$.

HUGO HULME CL'ICUS CANTARISTA IB'M.

Valet in reddit' terrarum et teñtor' ibm per annu iiij^{li} xiij^{s} ix^{d}.

X^{a} inde ..... ix^{s} iiij^{d} ob.

(Translation.)

CHANTRY AT BOLTON AFORESAID.

Of the foundation of Sir James Harrington, Knight.

HUGH HULME, CLERK, CHANTRY PRIEST THERE.

Is worth in the rents of lands and tenements there, by the year, £4 13s. 9d.

A tenth thereof.....,9s. 4$\frac{1}{2}$d.

From this it will be seen that not only was Harrington ecclesiastically unconnected with the Vicariate of Bolton, but that he was not even in holy orders. He was neither curate nor vicar, but simply a benefactor to the Chapel of Blackrod, which was a Chantry of Bolton Church. (This is clearly shown in notes relating to Blackrod Church.)

Another name has crept in Mr. Croston's List of Vicars which has no *locus standi*, viz., "George Robinson," of whom he says:—"1542.—The name of this ecclesiastic occurs in the Composition Books (Record Office) as having paid his first fruits June 28, 34 Henry VIII. (1542), but he is described as a chantry priest, and was probably serving at one of the altars in the Church of Bolton." If the institution papers at Chester, or Piccope's MSS. (vol. xviii., p. 9), had been effectually consulted before entering Robinson's name amongst the Bolton Vicars, such an error could scarcely have occurred. Both these authorities agree that "George Robynson" was appointed "Minister of the Chapellry of Blackrod, 21 June, 1544;" Piccope adding that such was upon presentation by "Alex: Radclyff, knt., and Wm: R:, Esqr., his son, by grant from Richard Houghton, Esqr., and Alice his wife." Again, it must be remembered that Vicar Bolton had not, at this period, relinquished the living of the Mother Church and Parish. Therefore it will be seen again that in 1534-5 not only was James Bolton Vicar of this ancient parish, but that James Harrington was only the *Rector* of a chantry in Bolton, whilst Hugh Hulme was officiating as the priest of such chantry. This, there is no doubt, refers to the Chantry of St. Katherine the Virgin in Blackrod Church, Parish of Bolton, for we read in the said *Depositions* of the Duchy of Lancaster* that "Hugh Hulme hath a chantry in Blakerode Church in Bolton, by nomination of heirs of James Haryngton. Worth per annum 6 marks. Hath been incumbent 36 years." In 1542 Hulme was succeeded in the Chantry or Church of Blackrod by Ralph Foster. Thus there is not the slightest foundation for the statement respecting Harrington's occupancy of the Bolton Vicarage, or the Priesthood of Blackrod Chantry. If the "patronage of the

* 15 Henry VIII., vol. 10, R. 7, Public Record Office, London.

chantry" had been attributed to him these remarks would have been unnecessary.

JAMES BOLTON.—1513.

The proof of James Bolton's nomination to the Vicarage of Bolton at so early a date as 1513 has been transmitted to us by Thomas Boteler, Esq., the King's Commissioner in Lancashire, in his account of the Depositions and Examinations temp. 15 Henry VIII. [1523], which he handed in to the Right Hon. Sir Thomas More, knight, &c. This record is thus extracted:—"*Bolton Super Moras.*—Dr. Knyght is parson of Church of Bolton. James Bolton, priest, been incumbent 10 years by the nomination of the Prior of Merestia [Maresay]. Worth per annum £10." About *circa* 1533 "Dns Rogerus felden" attended a visitation at Manchester as to the "conduct" of Vicar Bolton. His name also appears in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* [1534] (see Gregson's Fragments, vol. v., p. 226); and attended another visitation at Manchester *circa* 1548, accompanied by the following priests:—Dns Joannes Hilton, Dns Thomas Pendilburie, cur:, Dns Willms Brodhurst, Dns Radus forster, Dns Thomas P———, Dns Arthurus Pilkyngton, Dns Jacobus Anderton, Dns Rogerus felden, and Dns Willms Knyght.* It was in the year 1552, during the Vicariate of the Rev. James Bolton, that an Inventory of Bolton Church Goods was taken by special commissioners.† He was born about 1479,‡ and would therefore be 36 years of age when he was presented to the Bolton Church. In the year 1553-4 Vicar Bolton engaged in a law suit regarding his right to certain corn and oats on Lever Moor, Ralph Assheton, the reputed lessor, being his opponent. A cross suit was promoted by the Vicar, and evidence on both sides was given showing the circumstances of the dispute.§

* These names are copied from the original Visitation Book at the Diocesan Registry, Chester, and differ somewhat from records in *Piccope's* MSS., vol. x., p. 97, 152, 183, vol. xvi., p. 7.

† Chetham Society Publications, vol. cvii., p. 23, old series.

‡ From his own statement on oath in a disputed case between Archdeacon Knight and the Executors of Alexander Lever respecting the Prebendary lands of Bolton, 1539.

§ The cases are filed among the Duchy of Lancaster Pleadings and Surveys, 1 and 2 Philip and Mary (1554), at the Public Record Office, London. In the first suit (vol. 1, A. 5), Raffe Assheton, of Leaver, in the County of Lancaster, gent., complains "that where youre said orator is lawfully seysyd in his demesne as of fee of and in one close called Leaver moore, and did plowe and sowe the same w'th otes as lawfull yt was for hym to doe. And that one Rycharde Rothewell, of Bolton, laborer, Gyles Rothewell, and Wyllyam Grenehaugh, by the unlawfull com'andement and procurement of one James Bolton, vycar of Bolton, did ryottously and forcyblye agaynste the Kinge and quene's ma'ties peace assemble themselves together the xijth daye of September laste paste upon the seid Close called Leaver moore; and did then and there unlawfully cutt downe and carye

Vicar Bolton continued in his Vicarage until his death, 1556, aged 77. It is, however, noteworthy that on the 15th August, 1551, Robert Lever, of Lever, by will, gave to Edward Cockerall, who is called the Vicar of Bolton, iij^{s} iiij^{d} "to pray for mee;" Bolton being witness to the will. (Canon Raines's MSS., vol. xxvii., p. 430.)

Andrew Barton, of Smithells, Esq., in his will dated 7th February, 1548-9, desired his "body to be buried in the chauncell of the p'yshe churche of Bolton in as shorte tyme as can any honest pvycyon be made convenyent." "Sr. James Bolton, Vicar of Bolton," was chosen as an executor of this will, whereupon he was to receive a bequest of "one yoke of my best draght oxen." The testator's appraisers acknowledged a debt of £60 11s. 8d. due by testator, at the time of his death, to the said Vicar.*

awaye all the otes and corne for yor. seid orators growynge, to the valwe of tenne poundes and above; and the same wrongefully converted to th' use of the seyd Vycar contrary to all equytie and conseyence, and to the evill example and greate encouragement of all the inhabytantes dwellynge nere thereaboutes to comytt and doe the like offences if condigne punyshements in the premysses be not spedyly provyded." The result of this petition was that a precept was ordered against James Bolton (the Vicar) and the other offenders to appear in explanation at Westminster.

In the cross suit of about the same date, the complainant "one James Bolton, clerke, vycar of the paryshe Churche of Bolton opon the mores, complains that Rauf Assheton, of great Leavor, Esquyer, was seased in his demesne of three closes of lande conteynyng fyve acres or there abouts lyeng in great leavor; and that the seyd Rauf, not onely ffor and in consyderacon of dyverse sumes of money well and truly by your poore orator to hymn payed, but also for as muche as your seyd orator hade not any glebe landes belongyng to his seyd vycaredge of Bolton, by his dede Indented, suffycent in the law bearying date the tenth January, in the xxiiijth yere of the Reigne of the late Kynge of ffamous memorye Kynge Henry th'eight [1532] graunted and to fferme dyd lette twoe of the seyd closses unto your seyd orator by the names of the lower ende of the longe ffyelde and one of the lever mores, late in the holdynge of Rauf Assheton and Elenor his wyf. in the towne of great leavor." This writing then shows that he was to hold the same for the term of his life, paying yearly to Assheton 11s. By another deed dated March 14th, 30 Hen. VIII., Assheton conveyed the other close, named "over ende off the longe ffyelde," in Great Lever, for life, paying yearly by the Vicar 4s. 4d. at two feasts in the year. Upon these premises, Ralph Assheton, "with divers other riotous persons unlawfully entered; and for as moche as your seyd orator [Vicar Bolton] was very aged, and had contynued in the quyette possessyon of the premyses dyverse yeres without vexac'on or dysturbance." The proceedings ended in a writ of injunction against Assheton, commanding him to let the Vicar enjoy the premises peaceably. However, the defendant Assheton, "being wealthy and a gentleman well friended, and is a justice of the peace of Lanc., and plaintiff with few friends, deft. got sundrye ryottous and evyll dysposed personnes in contempte of the Court to break the injunction, and did dryve the bestes and cattels of your seyd orator out of the closes into another of the said Ralph, & so dyd take and impounde the same bestes; & breaking away a gate & carrying away some four or five loades of hay." The Vicar further says that he desired deft. to let him peaceably enjoy the premises, but deft. "myndyng to beggar and undoe" him, "beinge poore, old, and not able to travell and folowe the suyte of the lawe," declines so to do. There is no answer of defendant attached to these writings, though a precept was thereupon issued to him and the other "ryottous personns."

Ralph Assheton was of an old family, who through intermarriage with one of the Levers became resident at Great Lever Hall. This mansion was subsequently occupied by the Bridgemans, including Bishop Bridgeman. A descendant of this family—Lord Bradford—still owns the Manor of Great Lever. Colonel Francis C. Bridgeman (younger son of Lord Bradford), has been Member of Parliament for Bolton since November 25th, 1885.

* Chetham Society Publications, vol. li., p. 98.

THOMAS PENDLEBURIE.—1556.

Since the presentation of James Bolton to the Vicarage of Bolton, great and remarkable changes had taken place in the ecclesiastical affairs of the town. The dissolution of the monasteries had come about. The new See of Chester had been formed out of the old one of Lichfield and Coventry and the Abbey of St. Werburg. The patronage or advowson of Bolton Church, formerly vested in the Prior and Convent of Maresay (with the sanction of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, and admission, or induction, by the Archdeacon of Chester—who was practically the Rector of the Bolton glebe or prebendary lands) was now transferred, on certain conditions, to the new Bishop of Chester, who virtually succeeded the late Archdeacon [Knight] on his elevation to the episcopal bench. In less than two years from the time of Henry VIII.'s alteration of the ecclesiastical government, powers were at work to provide for the first vacancy that was likely soon to arise at Bolton Church. Mr. Bolton was advancing in years, and probably showing signs of age. In 1543, steps were taken to settle the right of the first presentation under the new law, and lengthy legal writings were framed wherein certain terms appear which are of singular importance to the Church history of Bolton. These documents are all written in Latin on strips of parchment. The earliest is thus translated:—

To all the faithful in Christ to whom the present writing shall come. John [Bird] by Divine permission Bishop of Chester, the true and undoubted patron of the perpetual Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton, within the Deanery of Manchester, impropriated, united, and annexed to our Bishopric of Chester, greeting, grace, and the benediction, and certain faith to make use of these presents. Know ye that we, the aforesaid Bishop, have given and granted, and by this our present writing have confirmed, to our very dear in Christ, the venerable men, Masters George Wilmesleye, Bachelor of Laws, our Vicar General in spiritual matters, and Richard Smyth, Bachelor in Laws, our Commissary, of Chester, and to each of them by himself severally, their executors and assigns, the first and next advowson, gift, nomination, presentation, right of patronage, and free disposition of the perpetual Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton aforesaid, whenever, in what manner soever, and however, by death, resignation, surrendering, exchange, or other manner first and next it shall happen that the same Vicarage is vacant. So that it may be lawful, and it shall be lawful for the aforesaid George and Richard jointly, and for each of them severally by himself, their executors and assigns, and the executors and assigns of both of the same, to nominate and to present whatever able and proper parson to the same perpetual Vicarage of Bolton aforesaid, and him to procure to be canonically and really instituted and inducted as the perpetual Vicar; and other all and singular the things which pertain and shall pertain to the patron, and to the duty or office of the patron of the perpetual Vicarage of the Parish Church aforesaid, for this single turn, and the next vacancy and presentation to the same are to be done, and to act in all things as fully and entirely as we should do or could do if this our grant had not been made. In testimony whereof we have caused our seal to be put to these presents.

Dated the 10th day of the month of August, in the year of our Lord 1543, and in the 35th year of the reign of the most illustrious prince and lord in Christ, our lord Henry the Eighth, by

the grace of God of England, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and on earth supreme head of the English and Irish Church, and in the second year of our translation.

[seal] of JOHN [Bishop] OF CHESTER.

By this document it will be seen that the advowson of Bolton Church practically left the hands of the Bishop of Chester for one turn only—and that the first after the date of sealing the writing. The transfer was confirmed by the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Chester, as appears from the subjoined translation:—

We, Henry Mane, professor of sacred theology, and Dean of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Chester, and the Chapter of the same place, by our unanimous consent and assent for this matter met together in Chapter, as much as in us lies by these presents do approve, ratify, and confirm a certain gift, grant, right of patronage, and free disposition of the perpetual Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton, within the Deanery of Manchester, of the Diocese of Chester, for the first and next vacancy only, granted by the reverend Father and Lord in Christ, John [Bird], by Divine permission Bishop of Chester, the true and undoubted patron of the same perpetual Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton, to certain George Wilmesley and Richard Smyth, the executors and assigns of the same, jointly and severally.

In testimony whereof our common seal is appended to these presents. Given in our Chapter House, on the 4th day of the month of September, A.D. 1544.

Evidently a little delay had occurred in issuing the foregoing "consent," for in the interim another transfer of the right of patronage took place. This time George Wilmesleye and Richard Smyth conveyed this prerogative by deed to Hamon, or Hamnett, Dychfeld and two others, as follows:—

To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall come, George Wilmesleye, Bachelor of Laws, and Richard Smyth, Bachelor of Law, the true and undoubted patrons of the perpetual Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton, within the Deanery of Manchester, of the Diocese of Chester, for the first and next vacancy of the same by force and reason of a gift of the grant of the first and next vacancy and of the advowson of the same Vicarage, with the right of presenting to the same, made to us by the reverend Father in Christ, John [Bird], by Divine permission Bishop of Chester, the true and original patron of the Vicarage aforesaid, for one single and the next turn only, greeting in the Lord everlasting. Know ye that we, the aforesaid George Wilmesleye and Richard Smyth, have granted, and by this our present writing have confirmed, to our very dear in Christ, Hamon Dichefeld, of the City of Chester, gentleman; the Lord John Whitbye, vicar choral of the Church of the College of St. John, of the city aforesaid; and the Lord Richard Fakener, priest chanter, of the same College Church, jointly, and to each of them by himself separately and severally, the whole rights which we have, or are to have, by reason and force of the said grant to these presents annexed; and them we have ordained, deputed, constituted, and assigned, jointly and each of them, by himself severally and separately, our assigns and our assign, and the assigns of each of us; so that it may be lawful for them jointly, and for each of them, as is set forth, separately and for himself, severally to nominate and effectually to present whatsoever proper parson to the aforesaid Vicarage of Bolton, according to the force, form, and effect of the same aforesaid gift and grant to these presents annexed, and to do and arrange all other the things which in our persons we could do, or any of us in his person could do by force of the said gift to these presents annexed if this present gift or assignment had not been made. In testimony whereof we have put our seals to these presents.

Dated on the 15th day of the month of July, in the year of our Lord 1544, and in the 36th year of the reign of our most illustrious prince and lord in Christ, the lord Henry the Eighth [by the grace] of God of England, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and on earth supreme head of the English and Irish Church under Christ.

It would appear that notwithstanding the advowson of Bolton Church being now vested in Dichefeld, Whitbye, and

Faukener, another priest also claimed at least an equal right. This was Robert Boware,* clerk, who by his will dated 31st August, 1554, and proved on the 14th of the following September, desired to be buried within "the Chaunell of Saynt Johns, under the stonis afore the blessed sacrament." He likewise therein says: "I bequeth to my brother Arthur Bower my advossone of the vekerech of Boltone in the Morrys to the youse of Syre Houmfre Boyere or Syr Edward Garnet, yf he shall thinke most expedeent when yt shall shance to falle."†

No further information is to hand regarding the right of Robert Boware; neither does it appear whether his suggested nomination to the Bolton Vicarage was either valid or put into execution. Indeed, as regards the last item, it is clear, from a succeeding writing, that such did not transpire; on the other hand James Bolton was immediately followed in his ministerial capacity by the nominee of the three patrons named in the last cited transfer.

On creation of the Bishopric of Chester in 1541 the Collegiate Church of St. John the Baptist in Chester became the Cathedral Church. Prior to this the College was under the ministerial guidance of a Dean and seven Canons. A list of the former has been compiled, commencing with the year 1187, and finishing with the great ecclesiastical change in 1541, when Richard Walker was in office. This priest surrendered, under pressure, his college in 1547, and when King Edward VI.'s Commissioners visited the Church, but he was seven years afterwards appointed Dean of the New Cathedral of St. Werburgh, to which place the dignity had been removed. When the King's Commissioners visited St. John's, they reported that the nave of the Church was sufficient for the wants of the parishioners, and recommended that the lead be stripped from the roof of the Choir, that four of the five bells be taken, as well as all the endowments, ornaments, and plate, for the King's use. They, however, left a charge upon the endowments of £20 a year to pay a Vicar and his assistant to do the services of the Church. The first of these Vicars was apparently Robert Bowyer, and his assistant Thomas Latwys. Hence it would seem that the

* In the Burial Registers at Farnworth Church, near Prescot:—"June, 1552: Sr. Rychard Bowre, priest, buried ye xviijth daie."

† Chetham Society Publications, vol. ii., pp. 266-8.

advowson of Bolton Vicarage, though virtually belonging to the Bishop of Chester, was for some consideration (of what nature or value is not now known) transferred by him to certain of his Chaplains or Vicars then serving at the original Cathedral Church of Chester.

Thomas Pendleburie, the Curate or preacher at Bolton under Vicar Bolton, and who had been ordained anterior to the year 1548, upon the title of Adam Hulton de Parke, Esq.*—*i.e.*, of Hulton Park—was next presented to the Vicarage upon the nomination of "Hamnet Dychfeld," on behalf of himself and his co-patrons already mentioned. The presentation† reads :—

To the most reverend Father and Lord in Christ, the Lord Cuthbert [Scot] by Divine permission Bishop of Chester, or in his absence the Vicar General in spiritual affairs greeting. Your humble [and] devoted Hamon Dichefelde, gentleman, Richard Faukener and John Whitbie, chaplains, all reverence with the honour due to so great a father. By the tenor of these presents we present to your reverend care our very dear brother in Christ, Thomas Pendilburie, Clerk for the Perpetual Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton, of your Diocese and jurisdiction, now vacant by the natural death of James Bolton, the last Vicar there, and by the grant of John [Bird] late Bishop of Chester, by full right belonging to our presentation, for this single turn only . . . . . Humbly asking that you may think fit with favour to admit the same Thomas Pendilburie to the Perpetual Vicarage of Bolton aforesaid, with all its rights and appurtenances, and to institute and invest the same Thomas in the same Vicarage, and to perform the other things which shall be incumbent on your pastoral office in this behalf.

In witness whereof we have set our seals to these presents. Dated the 20th day of the month of October. Anno Domini 1556.

HAMNET DYCHFELD.

Pendleburie's bond on his presentation to the Bolton living is couched in the usual terms. By that writing he was "firmly bound to Cuthbert, Bishop of Chester," in £100, to be paid to the said Bishop or his attorney, on the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist next ensuing. The conditions of the obligation was :—

"That iff the above bounden Thomas Pendleburie, clerke, vic. off Bolton in the Mores, do defende, acquite and discharge the above named reverend father Cutberte, Bisshoppe off Chester, and all his officers and ministers ageynest all mann' off prsons for his admission and institution to and in the Vicarrage off Bolton. And moreou', and in case that the title and p'ntacon wherbie the said Thomas Pendelburie, clerk, was unto the said Vicarrage off Bolton presented, admitted and instituted be reproved, or anye other here after lafullie approved, iff the said Thomas Pendelburie do then wt'in x daies next after he shal be ther unto required, clerlie and puerlie resigne giff up and effectuallie leave into the handes off the said reverend father, or his or the successors, or his or the chancellor comissarie for the tyme beinge, the said vicarrage off Bolton afore said, and all his hoole right title and interest to and in the same, w't delyverie also off his lres off institucon ther unto made, that then this obligacion to be void and off no effecte, otherwise to stande in full power, strenth and v'tue." This bond of obligation is dated "22nd October, in the 3rd and 4th years of the reigns of Philip and Mary, by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain, France, &c. [A.D. 1556]."

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* *Piccope's MSS.*, x., p.

† Diocesan Registry, Cheshire.

How long Pendleburie held the living of Bolton has not been ascertained, but evidences give his removal, by death or otherwise, in or about the year 1560.

EDWARD COCKERELL.—CIRCA 1560.

Edward Cockerell was, as stated elsewhere, one of the officiating ministers in the ancient Parish of Bolton during the respective Vicariates of James Bolton and Thomas Pendleburie. In Baines's *History of Lancashire*, 1868, vol. ii., p. 553, "Cockrell" is entered as succeeding Pendleburie by presentation of the Bishop of Chester, for which no date is assigned; but nevertheless inferring it to be after the year 1556. In the later edition of the said county *History* (1890, vol. iii., p. 174), Mr. Croston has altered Cockerell's position in the List of Vicars by placing it before that of Pendleburie, accompanying it with the date "1550." Upon what ground this has been done is not apparent, unless it be the outcome of the will of Robert Lever, of Lever, dated 15th* August, 1551, wherein the testator gave to "Edward Cockrell," who is there called the "Vicar of Bolton," the sum of "iij^{s} iiij^{d} to praye for mee."† The title of "Vicar," when only "Curate," "Preacher," or "Minister" was meant, is not uncommonly seen in wills of the 16th Century, and ought not in this instance to have been accepted in its literal sense. The error in the present case, however, is clearly apparent from the fact that Lever's will is attested by "The Vicar," who, it is needless to say, would be no other than James Bolton.

Robert Bolton, "off littell Bolton, in the countye off lancaster, Esquier," by his will, dated 21st May, 1560, "geave to the vicare off Bolton, my Taffeta Hatte." The recipient's identity is discovered amongst the signatures of witnesses to the document, *i.e.*, "Edward Cockerell, Vicare off Bolton."

About the year 1563 there were said to be 5000 communicants in the Parish of Bolton; the parsonage, impropriate to the Bishop of Chester, was of the value of £300; the vicarage

* Baines's *Lancashire*, 1890, vol. iii., p. 174, gives the date as "19th August."

† Canon Raines's *Lancashire MSS.*, vol. xxvii., p. 430. The abstract reads:—"15 Aug., 1551. Will of Robert Leyver. To be buryed in my Parish Church of Bolton. [He leaves legacies.] Unto Alexander, James, & Thomas, my sons; my daurs. Elling and Margaret; my dau: Jenet L.; my Master thurstan tyllesley. Unto Robart Leyver, bryan leyver, hue herdman, and henry moris iij^{s} iiij^{d} a peece; and unto the Vicar of bolton, edward cokrell, iij^{s} iiij^{d} to praye for mee. Exors. James and Thomas Leyver, my sonnes; master thurstan tyllesley, mayster leyver & Rauffe heyton, overseers. Witnesses: thomas crompton, arthur sharpplus, ellis ffogge, Jhon crompton, Jhon hardman, & the Vicar."

of 20 marks; the preacher was not "painfull."* In the 16th year of Elizabeth's reign [1573], "Edwarde Cockerell" had "a pen'con of v^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} out of the late monesterye of Gysbourne, and one other out of the late college of Busshop owkeland of vj^{li} p' ann and ys yet Lyving and dwelleth at Bolton in the mores." At the same time it was stated that "James Hulton was buryed at Bolton the nyneth daye of March, Anno d'ni 1569, and had a penc'on"† allowed him.

Cockerell's death appears to have been the cause of the Bolton benefice becoming vacant. But as the Parish Registers are not known to exist between the years 1574 and 1587, the date of his burial cannot be fixed; nor is it certain that Bolton was the place of his interment.

ALEXANDER SMYTHE.—1582.

On the death of Edward Cockerell the Vicariate was occupied by Alexander Smythe, he being instituted by the Bishop of Chester, on the 7th August, 1582, on the presentation of Bernard Anderton,‡ who must have been lessee of part or all of the rectory estates.§ His institution bond, which is dated 17th August, 1582, styles him "Vicar of the Parish Church of Bolton on the Moors." It further sets forth that he was "held and firmly bound to the reverend father and lord in Christ, the Lord William [Chadderton] by Divine compassion Bishop of Chester, in one hundred pounds." The document then proceeds to give the conditions of Vicar Smythe's obligation as follows:—

The condicon of this obligacon is suche that if the w'thin Bounden Alex. Smithe, clarke, do, at his owne p'per coste, save, defend and kepe harmelesse the w'thin named Reuende ffathe' and his successors, and all othe' officers against all man' of p'sons fr: his admission and institucon into the Vicaridge of Bolton in the Mores w'thin the dioce of Chester. And moreover in case the title or pu'tacon whereby he was p'sented be reproved or anie oth' hereafter lawfullie approved that then the said Alexander Smithe doe w'thin xii. daies nexte after that he shal be therevpon required purelie, clearlie and effectuallie resigne, leve and give vp into the handes of the said Reuende ffath' for the tyme beinge, the said Vicaridge, and all his title, right and interest in and to the same w'th delywie also of his lres of Institucon and inducon thereof, made ready to be cancelled. And also do retayne and kepe in possession the same Vicaridge w'thout anie settinge or lettinge to serve or otherwyse then the lawes and statute of the Realme alone w'thout the speciall lycense of the said Reuend ffather and his successors. That then the w'thin written obligacon to be voyde or ells to remayne in full power and vertue.¶ It is noticeable that the signature to this deed, like the name in the context, is spelled "Smithe," whereas it is elsewhere commonly written with a "y" instead of "i."

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* *State Papers*, Dom. Eliz., vol. xxi., No. 47.
† Special Commissions, No. 3258.
‡ Baines's *History of Lancashire*, 1868, vol. i., p. 553.
§ See Chapter xv., p. 108.
¶ Diocesan Registry, Chester.

On the 14th February, 26 Elizabeth (1583), Vicar Smythe paid his first fruits to the Queen, which tax his induction made imperative.* When the late Parish Church was taken down, one of the large beams was shewn to bear the monogram "A.S.," carved in large antique letters; evidently the initials of the Vicar who held the living during extensive repairs to the Church. His name appears as witness to the wills of Edmund Entwissell of Entwyssell, dated 5th April, 1585; Margaret Tayliar of Turton, dated 18th April, 1587 (inventory 17th June, 1587); Hugh Entwisle of Entwisle, dated 19th July, 1589 (inventory 30th May, 1590). In 1593 Vicar Smythe died, and was buried in his Parish Church, as the register entry shows:—"1593.—Alexander Smythe, vicker of Bolton, buried in the Church the xxviijth daye of december." His wife survived him about seven years, *i.e.*, "1600—The wife of Alexander Smith, that was late vicar of Bolton, intra ecclesiam, 10 Maye."

JOHN ALBRIGHT, M.A.—1594.

On the 10th June, 1594, John Albright, M.A., was collated to the Vicarage of Bolton—being about six months after the death of the previous Vicar—the Bishop of Chester presenting by right. Piccope mentions this Vicar's institution as being on the death of the "previous incumbent."† No other list gives the name. A translation of the presentation deed‡ in this case is worth producing *in extenso*:—

William [Chadderton], by the permission of God, Bishop of Chester, to our beloved in Christ, John Albright, Clerk, Master of Arts, greeting, grace, and benediction. Looking on you with esteem, we collate you to the Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton in the Moors of our Diocese of Chester, now lawfully vacant, and in full right pertaining to our presentation and collation by reason of our Bishopric of Chester; and thee we institute and invest as Vicar of the same perpetual Vicarage of the same Parish Church of Bolton aforesaid, with all its rights, members, and appurtenances—the Articles made by Royal authority, to the forming of which it was agreed between the Archbishops and Bishops of each province, and all the clergy in the Synod of London, in the year of our Lord 1562, to acknowledge the assent and dissent of opinions in the true religion, having been first read and subscribed to on your part—and with thy consent and assent to the same having been given, they also in the first place being divulged to you, and in part by not only having taken the oath contained, expressed, and specified in a certain Act of Parliament, held at Westminster on the 23rd day of the month of January, in the first year of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.; but also sworn for continual and personal residence upon and in the said Vicarage, unless it shall be otherwise lawfully arranged with thee; and to observe canonical obedience to us and to our successors Bishops

* *First Fruits' Composition Books* (1st series), Public Record Office.

The "First Fruits" were the first profits of every spiritual living for one year, originally paid to the Pope, but afterwards taken by Henry VIII., and by Queen Anne applied to the augmentation of small benefices.

† Vol. xviii., p. 6.

‡ Church Papers, Diocesan Registry, Chester.

of Chester in all things, lawful and honest, by fulfilling the holy Evangelists of God. And we also commit to thee in the Lord the care of the decrees of the parishioners there, and the rule of the said Church, by these presents. To our episcopal laws of Chester, and to our Cathedral Church of the same, do thou always acquit thyself with dignity and honor in all things. In witness of which thing we have caused our episcopal seal to be put to these presents. Dated the 10th day of the month of June, in the year of our Lord 1594, and in the 15th of our consecration.

W. CESTREN.

Another Latin document,* translated below, shows that Albright accepted the "Perpetual Vicarage of Bolton" within five days after the presentation. Not being able to attend personally before the Bishop to accept the same, he appointed two clergymen to act as his proxies by his "power of attorney":—

Let it be known to all by these presents that, Whereas the Reverend Father and lord in Christ, the lord William, by the mercy of the Lord, Bishop of Chester, instituted me, John Albright, Clerk, Master of Arts, to the Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton, in the Diocese of Chester; and decreed me, or my lawful procurator, in my absence, by his letters patent, sealed with his episcopal seal, to be installed and brought into real, actual, and bodily possession of the same Vicarage, as moreover by the same letters made is shown and appears. And because I, the aforesaid John Albright, am not able to attend personally to accept the real, actual, and bodily possession of the said Vicarage, on account of right, true, just, and lawful causes. Therefore, I, the aforesaid John Albright, on account of the causes aforesaid, do make, ordain, and constitute by these presents my dearest in Christ, James Pendleburie, Clerk, Vicar of Deane, and Hamlet Percevall, Clerk, Curate of Hollinfaire, procurators, agents, factors, and such managers and reporters of my affairs, separately, in my place and name to accept real, actual, and bodily possession of, and in the same Vicarage, according to the requirement of the law, according to the form, effect, and true sense of the said letters patent, in as full manner and form as I myself could personally make often as I should attend. I promise that I hold for ever everything and whatsoever each one of my said procurators shall have done in the premises, or in any of the premises, valid, firm, and acceptable under the pledge of the obligation of all my goods, and in that behalf I set forth caution by these presents. In testimony of which thing I have both put to my own seal and have first procured the seal of the true man, David Hall, Doctor of Laws, lawful deputy of the official of the Consistory Court of Chester, to be put to. Dated the 15th day of the month of June, 1594, and in the 36th year of our Lady Elizabeth, &c.

What length of time Albright held the Vicariate records to hand do not show. Neither is it known whether his death or resignation was the cause of the next vacancy. One point, nevertheless, is certain, he did not long remain as head of the Church in Bolton.

ZACHARIAS SAUNDERS.—BEFORE 1598.

He graduated at St. John's, Cambridge, where he received his M.A. degree about the year 1589. Evidence shows that he was a clever, honest, and faithful student; and it appears to be on that account that the Masters and Seniors looked upon him with favour. In passing it may be observed that the Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, at Rivington, was founded by James Pilkington, Bishop of Durham. At the time

* Church Papers, Diocesan Registry, Chester.

of its establishment the founder was Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, to whom and the Seniors of the College (successively) he gave the patronage of the school to the extent that if the Governors did not choose two candidates within six weeks after a vacancy (for approval by the authorities of the College) the Masters and Seniors might put in a master of their own choice.

Amongst the records of the said College* is a letter dated 1589, headed "A letter for Mr. Saunders to be schoolmayster of Rivington." It is addressed to "the feoffyes and supervisors of the school," and sets forth that the College authorities, "hearing that the school has remained long destitute of an able, honest, and sufficient scholar since the departure of the last Incumbent, request the trustees to admit the bearer, Zach. Saunders, now to be M.A., student of the College, known to the College for seven years as of honest and Godly conversation and sufficient learning." Thus it is clear that because of the prolonged vacancy at Rivington School they put in force their prerogative by presenting Zacharias Saunders thereto. The selection was accepted by the Governors of the School, and Mr. Saunders became the headmaster.†

He afterwards accepted the living of Bolton Church, being presented during the latter part of 1594 or beginning of 1595, which event suggests the probability of his predecessor, John Albright, having resigned within a few months of his acceptance by proxy. However, Saunders was here July 10th, 37 Elizabeth (1595), upon which day he paid his first fruits.‡ After less than four years' residence in Bolton, he resigned his benefice in the following terms (translated from the Latin):—

In the Name of God, Amen. Before you, the Reverend father and Lord in Christ, the Lord Richard [Vaughan] by Divine permission Bishop of Chester. I, Zacharias Saunders, Vicar of the Parish Church of Bolton in le Moores, of the Diocese of Chester, wishing and endeavouring, for certain true, just and lawful causes, myself and my mind in this behalf specially moving, to be divested of, and discharged from, the burden of the care, and from the rule of my said Vicarage of Bolton, into your sacred and reverend hands, not being seduced or in any way circumvented by force, deceit, fear, or fraud, but purely of my own will, simply and absolutely, and of my own motive, leaving the same my Vicarage vacant, yielding up the same, and totally and expressly withdrawing from the same in these writings.

By me, ZACHARIAS SAUNDERS.

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* In the *Black Book* of the College.
† *Wase's MSS.*, Corpus Christi College Library, Oxford.
‡ *Composition Books* (1st Series). Public Record Office.

The original document is endorsed thus:—"We admit and pronounce the Church vacant:—RIC: CHESTER." And, further: "Such resignation was read and pronounced before the reverend Father and Lord in Christ, Richard, by Divine permission Bishop of Chester, on the 26th day of September, 1598.—MORGELL, Registrar."

CHAPTER XXVI.

VICARS OF BOLTON.—(II).

Queen Elizabeth and the Quality of Lancashire Clergymen—Discontent in the Ministry—Beginning of Nonconformity—Vicar Saunderson Arraigned—A Group of Offenders in Bolton—Will of Rev. Ellis Saunderson—Vicar Parke's Conscientious Scruples—He flees to Holland—Revs. Oliver and Nathaniel Heywood interview Mr. Parke and induce his return—Terrible News—Secret Meetings—Parke and the Five Mile Act—Excommunications during Vicar Gregg's Ministry—The Civil Wars: Effect in Bolton—Tradition in Error—The Reported Stripping of Widow Gregg—Bequests by Mr. Gregg—Inventory of "Goods and Chattels"—Mr. Gregg's Family.

ELLIS SAUNDERSON.—1598.

THIS was the name of the next Vicar of the ancient Parish of Bolton. He was a native of Breightmet township, being the son of William and Margaret Saunderson (or Sanderson).* Where he received his education has not transpired, but his learning was of an order to gain for him favour in the eyes of his Diocesan, who instituted him to the Vicariate of Bolton on the 29th September, 1598. The new Vicar paid his first fruits to the Queen on the 17th of February following (41 Elizabeth).

* The will of William Saunderson, of Breightmet, was made 8th March, 1601. The inventory of deceased's goods was dated 13th, and proved at Chester on the 17th of the same

The quality of some clergymen holding benefices in Lancashire at this period does not appear to be of a high, or even moderate, standard. Queen Elizabeth, becoming cognisant of this, took steps to amend what, in her mind, was the apparent cause. In 1599 she wrote upon the subject to the Treasurer of the Exchequer, first explaining the reason of such want of ability in the Churches, and afterwards a means of remedy. The letter reads:—

We are informed by Sir Thos. Heneage, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, that on account of the smallness of the Church Livings in the County Palatine of Lancaster, by reason that most of the Parsonages are in private hands, there are few or no incumbents of learning or credit among them; and that priests creeping in drew them from their duty. We therefore bestowed pensions on some learned preachers, which on account of the said Chancellors we require you to pay to Sir Phil Butler, receiver of the Duchy, £200 yearly from the profits of the recusants' lands seized, to be distributed according to directions from the Bishop of Chester and the said Chancellor.*

Whether the Vicar of Bolton was included in the list of "unlearned" and "uncreditable," records do not say; but it is clear that he was of Puritanical inclinations, nay, more, he was one of the zealous Nonconformist Revolters of Whitgift's time.

About this period there existed a very unsettled feeling amongst the clergy of South Lancashire consequent upon the episcopal restraint under Archbishop Whitgift. On the 3rd October, 1604 (the year of the Archbishop's death), a large body of Nonconformist "ringleaders," including Ellis Saunderson, Vicar of Bolton, James Gosnell, and Richard Rothwell (a convert of Rev. Richard Midgley, the deprived Vicar of Rochdale), appeared before Bishop Vaughan of Chester at Alford, where he resided. They were here publicly admonished by the Bishop, who was much concerned to repress the spirit of insubordination and impatience of episcopal restraint which then existed amongst his clergy, and required to conform to the Liturgy and ceremonies of the Church of England, and also to subscribe *ex animo*

month. This document shows that at the time of his death the testator was "sicke in bodie, but well and perfect in mynd and sense." Testator desired to be buried in "Bolton Church Yeard, where my ancestors now lay in." He divided his goods and estates into three parts: One part to Margaret his wife, another to be equally divided betwixt his "sonne Ellis Sandersonn, vicar of Bolton," and his "daughter, Margaret Higsonne, wife of Raph Higsonne, of Harwood," whilst the third part he reserved to himself, which he disposed of as follows: "To Alice Harrison, wydowe, my daughter, the somme of xiij*li* vj*s* viij*d* (besydes vj*li* xiij*s* iiij*d*, which I do owe vnto her for part of her marriage money, which is to bee taken out of the whole as the rest of the debts); to James Sandersonn, my grandchild, one legacie of xl*s*; to my daughter-in law, Elizabeth Sandersonn, widow, one legacie of xx*s*; to my sister's daughter, Jane Greenhalgh, one legacie of x*s*." The remainder of his part, if any, was to be divided amongst his three children, Ellis, Alice, and Margaret. The testator appointed his son Ellis, and Arthur Bromley, of Turton, to be executors of his will. John Saunderson, who died in 1590, was another son of the testator, and husband to Elizabeth mentioned in the above will. The last-named executor was father to the said Elizabeth.

* *State Papers*, Dom. Elizabeth, vol. cliii., No. 20.

to the three articles in the 36th Canon. On account of their religious zeal, piety, and earnestness in the discharge of their ministerial functions in their respective parishes, they received impartial and kind treatment at the hands of the Diocesan; the dissentients, on their part, "endured their self-imposed trials with the fortitude of confessors and the spirit of martyrs." This was not all, however, for we learn that these clerical delinquents were cited to appear for a second time on the 28th of November following, but only Rothwell complied. Thus they were all, with one exception, "revolters after subscription." Burnet, in the *History of His Own Times* (vol. 1, p. 30), appears to have had little sympathy with them, and, notwithstanding their courageousness, he says "they were very factious and insolent."*

In the year 1605 the new Bishop of Chester [George Lloyd] held a visitation, at which not only Vicar Saunderson but many of his parishioners were arraigned in default of exercise of their various duties. Indeed Church affairs were in a deplorable state, and required rigid manipulation to prevent them from growing still worse. Amongst those thus presented were "The Vicar for not residing in the Parish; for not wearinge a Cloake or Cassocke; for not goinge the p'ambulacon;† for maryinge in private houses, vizt., John Armitage and Margaret Haslome." "George Smith, guard: (warden), for not makinge up his accompte." "Giles Ward and John Brookes, the Ould Churchwardens, for not makinge their accompts." "James Norres for breakinge the Church Dore and pullinge a stone oute of the wall." "James Longworth, Alexander Longworth, Edward Vause, Margery Muchell, and Anna Almore for being non-communicants." "Margaret Anderton and Mrs. Barton at Bradshaw—the Chancell ruinated in their defaulte." "Alexander Ward, a drunkard." And "for denyinge to go to

* Chetham Society Publications, vol. viii., p. 10, O. S.

† A perambulation round the bounds of the parish by the Vicar, Church officers, and others, is an ancient custom, and in many country districts is still observed. The ceremony took place generally in Rogation week (the second week before Whit Sunday). "In these processions, especially on the Rogation days, various banners were formerly used, of which the tradition was in recent times preserved, in some places, by carrying garlands suspended to poles, during the perambulation of boundaries. In wealthier churches the banners were not only ornamented with sacred subjects, but they exhibited armorial bearings. The banner of the lion, and that termed the dragon, were commonly displayed."—*Archæological Journal*, vol. iii., p. 254.

In February, 1596, Dr. John Dee was installed as warden of Manchester, and on the 4th of the succeeding May he records in his *Diary*: "I, with Sir Robert Barber, curat, and Robert Talsley, clerk, of Manchester parish church, with diverse of the town of divers ages, went in perambulation to the bownds of Manchester parish."—*Camden Society Publications*, 1842, p. 58.

Church," John Mason and Richard Wrighte were presented; as also were "George Brownlowe, Anna Marshe, Hugh Lomas, Elizabeth Rothwell, John Anderton, and Agnes Horrocke (fornicators), for not doing their penance." No fewer than thirteen persons, male and female, were named for adultery and fornication, and were probably ordered to do certain penance. The recusants appeared to the number of nine, viz., "The wife of Richard Lomas, ——— Tildesley, Roger Ormshawe, Joanna Ormshawe, Hugh Longworth, Alexander Vause, Isabella Hayton, John Turner, and Anna Almore." It therefore need be no matter of surprise that ecclesiastical affairs were creating the greatest anxiety in the minds of Church dignitaries. In their rebelliousness the sheep in this parish were being led by the shepherd; and it was only when severe measures were taken by the Bishop that a reasonable amount of subordination to episcopacy could be obtained.

The name of "Mr. Sanderson, curat of Bolton," appears in the list of subscribers to the "First Loan of the Clergy in 1620, for the use of the Count Palatine of the Rhine." His contribution was 6s. 8d., whilst that of Mr. Gasnall p'cher of Bolton" was £2. In 1622 "Vicar de Bolton, Mr. Sanderson" gave 13s. 4d. towards the recovery of the Palatinate," the "Lect: at Bolton, Mr. Gosnall" giving £5.

The executors of the will of Lawrance Crompton, dated 1st June, 1609—Inventory dated 22nd February, 1609-10,—were sworn in usual and common form before "Elizes Saunderson, clerk, vicaris de Boulton." By the will of James Bradshaw, of Darcy Lever, dated 20th November, 1616, "Mr. Ellis Saunderson, Vicar of Boulton," received the sum of 40s. Alice Crompton, of Breightmet, made her will on the 8th July, 1618, wherein she bequeaths many legacies to various clergymen in Bolton and district, and says, "I give to Mr. Ellisse Sandersonn, Vicar of boultonn, if hee bee livinge att my decease, the some of fortee shillings." And by the will of Robert Lever, of Darcy Lever, dated 13th May, 1620, he also received 20s.* Mr. James Gosnell, preacher at Bolton, by his will dated 9th January, 1622, bequeathed to "Mr. Saunderson, Vicar of Bolton, my p'cher's gowne lyned with lambe and my foure books of

* All these wills were proved at Chester in 1609, 1616, and 1621, respectively, and are there preserved at the Probate Registry.

Bellarmyne's works." (See extended reference in subsequent chapter to Mr. Gosnell's will.) Mr. Saunderson did not long outlive his assistant Gosnell. The Vicar died in 1625, as testified by the Parish Burial Register, which reads:—"1625.—Elis Sanderson, vicar of boulton, was Buried the neeneteeinth day of December, 1625, and had been Vicar twenty-eight yeares." The Parish Registers contain many entries of the Saundersons of Harwood and Breightmet. The first-named township was the seat of the Vicar's residence.

The will of Vicar Saunderson was dated December, 1625, the inventory of his goods being taken 28th of the same month, by "Richarde Fogge, Arthur Bromeleye, Richard Asmall, and Thomas Bromeley."* The will is thus abstracted:—

"First—I bequeath my soule into the hands of the Almighty, trustinge by ye precious blood of Jesus Christ, shed for me, everlastinglye to be saved; and my bodye to be buried in the p'ishe churche yarde of Bolton, as neare to my ancestors as possiblye ye can laye me." He divided his goods into three equal parts, giving one part to his wife, another to be divided amongst his three children—Margaret, James, and John—whilst the third part he reserved to himself. The will proceeds: "My will is that my p'te (except one noble) which I doe freellye give & bequeath vnto my wife Marjerye, my daughter Margaret, and sones James and John, to be equallye distributed amongst them. My will is yt my sone Ellis Sandersone, whom I make the purchaser of my landes, beinge kept in feoffees state vnto his daye by two survivors—Laurence Horrockes and Mattheu Harison, I being the occupant of it since it was purchased and afore; therefore, I praye my sone Ellis to give fourtye poundes vnto his sister Margaret, to James and to John equallye to be divided, when he shall come to his full age, vnlesse he willingelye staye with his mother duringe the terme of the bringinge vp of Margaret, James, and John, till ye yonger boye come to the full yeares of one & twentie. If my wife Marjerye keepe her chast, sole, and vnmarried, then shee shall be the occupant of the landes & two akars, and doe keepe my 4 children with her for their education."

Vicar Saunderson appointed his wife and his nephew James Sanderson as executors. The witnesses to the will were "James Leyver and John Allens." The total value of personal estate, according to the inventory, was £92 17s. 11d., the details of which included "a horse, £4 10s. 0d.; corne and haye, £4 10s. 0d,; one swine, 18s,; a fat cowe, £4 16s. 8d.; his apparell, £8; butter and cheese, 8s.; money, £9 5s. 0d.; bookes, £7 16s. 0d.

Miles Dawson is stated by Mr. Croston† to have been instituted to the Vicariate of Bolton-le-Moors in 1618, and he gives the Institution Books (Exchequer Records) as his authority. He also adds that Dawson resigned the living in 1625 to give place to Robert Parke. Further search shows Mr. Dawson to belong to Bolton-le-Sands, in the Deanery of Kendal, hundred of Lonsdale, and Diocese of Chester, and not of Bolton-le-Moors. He

* Probate Registry, Chester.
† Baines's *Lancashire* (1889), vol. iii., p. 175.

was appointed Vicar there in 1618,* in succession to Tobias (or Talbot) Porter.

ROBERT PARKE.—1625.

The Institution Books at the Diocesan Registry, Chester, record that Robert Parke was presented to the Vicariate of Bolton on the 16th December, 1625, in succession to Ellis Saunderson. The Bishop was patron.

Parke was a native of Bolton, being the son of John and Elizabeth Parke. He was born in 1600, and baptised at the Parish Church on the 17th of August in that year. His brothers were John, Nicholas, and James, all of whom married; the last named removed to Ireland. In the ordinary course of things Robert would receive his elementary education under some local tutor, or at the Grammar School. He afterwards continued his studies at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. For five years only did he fulfil his Vicarial duties, when, inclining to Presbyterianism, he was troubled for his nonconformity to the ceremonies of the Established Church, and in 1630 fled to Holland, where he assisted Mr. Symmonds in the English congregation at Rotterdam. In the first year of his Vicariate he paid £1 16s. 0d. towards a subsidy from the clergy of the Diocese of Chester, and probably repeated the amount in the two succeeding years.†

In 1644, on the death of William Gregg (who became Vicar on Parke's resignation in 1630), some of his sympathisers in Bolton desired his return, and for that purpose they deputed one of their leaders to bring the same about if possible. Richard Heywood, of Little Lever, father of the two eminent Nonconformist divines—Rev. Oliver Heywood and Rev. Nathaniel Heywood—was despatched to Mr. Parke with a view to securing his return. The interview was in a measure successful. Mr. Parke accepted the invitation of his old friends, and after the fall of the prelacy in England he once again preached within the Parish Church of his native town. The circumstances here set forth have been chronicled in the Diary of the Rev. Oliver Heywood‡ thus:—"Bolton parish lookt upon Richard Heywood

* *Record Society's Publications*, vol. xii., pp. 58, 96, 110; also *Piccope's MSS.*, vol. xviii., p. 279; also Roper's *Churches, Castles and Halls of North Lancashire*, vol. ii. (unfinished), p. 12. The two last authorities erroneously give Robt. Parke as successor to Dawson at Bolton-le-Sands.

† *Record Society Pub.*, vol. xii., p. 8.

‡ Vol. i., pp. 83-4; edited by J. Horsfall Turner, 1882.

to be a man of some judgment, capacity, and interest, when in the year 1644, upon the death of Mr. Gregg, Vicar of Bolton, they sent R. H. into the low countreys, with a messuage to Mr. Robert Park (formerly vicar of Bolton), then preacher in the English Congregation at Roterdam, thither he went, visited Amsterdam and other places in Holland, dispatcht his business effectually, had a promise from Mr. Parke to come in convenient time, who did come within a year or thereabouts, settled at Bolton till ejected by Bartholomew Act, lived there till he dyed. R. H. returned shortly; at his landing at Hull was welcomed with the astounding tidings of Prince Rupert's taking Bolton, killing man, woman, and child, as it was represented to him. He came by Hessah Moor [? Halshaw Moor] after the battell there, saw a lamentable spectacle of multitudes slain, stript; the saddest object that ever his eyes beheld. He often mentioned it."

On Mr. Parke's return to Bolton the Vicarage was already occupied by another. He was thereupon appointed Lecturer under the provisions of James Gosnell's will, and was further supported by the free contribution of the people, by whom he was much beloved. He was a person of incomparable ability, learning, and piety, and a very correct preacher. He was also a man of a very ready wit, and very facetious in conversation. The religious and and conscientious views of Mr. Parke had not changed during his absence; indeed, his early principles had become more firmly rooted; and this was the cause of his ejectment in 1662.* This, however, did not retard his endeavours to spread the spirit of dissent against the laws and rubrics of the Church. Nay, his liberty gave him more time and scope to converse with his neighbours on the changes that were then taking place, and to win them from what he considered the fetters of ecclesiastical government.

When ejected he for a time lived privately in Bolton, where he held numerous secret meetings in his own house and doubtless in the houses of his followers. Important evidences of these meetings not hitherto published have been found among other miscellaneous Church papers. The interest they carry is embodied in the history of Nonconformity in Bolton, in

* Calamy's *Nonconformists' Memorials* (edited by Samuel Palmer), vol. ii., p. 355.

the present work. Suffice it to say here that the secret meetings had been watched, and reported to the Bishop, who caused the depositions of witnesses to be taken and forwarded to his Registry at Chester. The result of the examinations was that several persons were excommunicated. Parke (the ejected Lecturer) suffered more severely, and was compelled to seek refuge outside his native town, because of the passing of the Five Mile Act. He removed to Broughton, on the outskirts of Manchester, where he remained until the granting of the indulgences, when he again returned to Bolton, and preached as he had opportunity, and frequently kept "private day" with the Puritan families of the town and neighbourhood until his trials, infirmities, and age gave him over to the "majority." Those who had contributed to the maintenance of Mr. Parke, whilst Lecturer, grateful for his occasional services and prayers on their "private days," continued supporting him after his ejectment.* An example of this generosity is seen in the will of John Bradshaw, of Darcy Lever, dated 28th April, 1662 (proved 16th following month). Though made a few months before the Bartholomew's Day ejectment, it carries with it a display of a certain amount of thoughtfulness on the part of the testator. The item referred to in the will reads :—"I doe bequeath unto Mr. Robt. Parke, Godly minister of bolton (because of his great charge) £10; also I bequeath unto Mr. Goodwine, the other minister of Bolton (because of his small charge) ffourtie shillings, w'ch I doe conceive to be equall w'th the other's need and charge."

Soon after Parke's return from Holland, Richard Goodwin was appointed Vicar of Bolton by the Presbyterian Classes, held at Bury. The two ministers concurred in the disputed questions of the day, and they lived in harmony and friendship, pursuing the same plans and following the same fortunes; were simultaneously ejected from their positions in the Church of Bolton, and hunted alike from their homes. "No one," says the Rev. Franklin Baker, in his *Rise and Progress of Nonconformity in Bolton* (1854, p. 17), "ever illustrated the fond attachment to home, so beautifully described by Goldsmith, more than Mr. Parke. Twice was he driven away from it by

* Halley's *Lancashire: its Puritanism and Nonconformity* (1872), p. 371.

inauspicious events, and twice did he return to it again. He might have exclaimed with the poet's *Traveller*,—

'And as a hare, whom hounds and horns pursue,
Pants to the place from whence at first she flew;
I still had hopes, my long vexations past,
Here to return, and die at home at last.' "

Mr. Parke possessed a very good library—consisting of 700 volumes—which, after his death, was sold for the support of his wife and children.* For forty-five years or more Mr. Parke laboured according to his own lights in the propagation of the Gospel; and, although not in a manner that would win the approval of conformable Church-folk, there is no doubt that much good accrued from the ministry of this good and conscientious man. He met his reward in December, 1668, being buried inside the Church at Bolton on Christmas Day of that year.†

After the death of Mr. Parke, the Rev. Oliver Heywood, who preached his funeral sermon at Bradshaw Chapel, paid frequent visits to the widow, and on one occasion (October 7th, 1669), preached in her house. On Wednesday, 27th September, 1670, Mr. Heywood "lookt through Mr. Parke's excellent library," and "bought some of Mr. Parke's bookes" on the 6th of the following February. At another time an inspection of the deceased clergyman's books was the object of Mr. Heywood's attention, probably with a view of making a further purchase.‡

The Rev. Robert Parke was twice married, his first wife being named Margery, by whom there was issue Lidia (bapt. 8th July, 1622), Anne (bapt. 29th April, 1627), and Mary (buried 8th May, 1631). Margery was interred on the 19th May, 1631. For his second wife Mr. Parke married Hanna Eaton, and there was issue John (buried 31st May, 1662), Timothy (buried 9th June, 1670), Abigail (buried 14th November, 1664), and Elizabeth (buried 20th April, 1670). Some time after the ejected Lecturer's death, his widow appears to have removed to Ormskirk, to live with or near to Mrs.

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* Calamy's *Memorials* (1802), vol. ii., p. 355.

† Bolton Parish Register:—"Robert Parke of Boulton, clerke, *intra eccl'iam*, 25 December, 1668." Calamy and other more recent biographers erroneously say that he died in 1669.

‡ *The Diary of Rev. Oliver Heywood*, edited by J. Horsfall Turner, 1883, vol. i., pp. 263, 265, 273, 276.

Heywood, widow of Rev. Nathaniel Heywood (brother of Rev. Oliver Heywood, and another of the ejected ministers). In the will of Mr. Robert Lever, of Darcy Lever, dated 4th February, 1686, and proved 16th March, 1688, the testator bequeathed to "Mrs. Parke and Mrs. Heywood, of Ormskirke, ffourtie shillings a peece."

WILLIAM GREGG.—1630.

The period during which this Vicar held the benefice of Bolton, was, perhaps, the most eventful in the history of the town. Of a Cheshire family, he came into the sister county to work and to die. His ancestors had for generations back resided at Bradley, in Cheshire—his great-great grandfather being named Richard, his father Thomas, who married Katherine Brocke, of Upton, in the same county. William Gregg, the Vicar, had two brothers and five sisters, named respectively: Edward, Robert, Alice, Polyxsia, Eleanor, Elizabeth, and Jane. The late Rev. Canon Raines, in his MSS. (vol. viii., p. 358) erroneously styles Robert as Vicar of Bolton, but Ormerod's *History of Cheshire* gives the title, and correctly so, to William.

On the resignation of Mr. Parke, William Gregg was presented to Bolton Church by the Bishop of Chester, being instituted on the 27th November, 1630. On the 26th April following, the name of "Mr. Gregg" accompanies a baptismal entry in the earliest extant Bolton Parish Register.

Vicar Gregg married Alice, daughter of James Crompton, of Crompton Fold, in Breightmet, and sister of Mary (wife of Puritan John Okey of the remarkable gravestone fame), of Abigail (the second wife of the Rev. Oliver Heywood, B.A., the great Nonconformist divine), and of Sarah (wife of the Rev. Richard Goodwin, the ejected Vicar of and founder of Presbyterianism in Bolton). Mr. Gregg, it is singular to notice, baptised Oliver Heywood, who in after years married a sister of Mrs. Gregg. About this ceremony Oliver Heywood writes, in his "Reflections," under date 15th March, 1694-5: "O Lord God, Thy poor servant knows not the day of my birth, but I am assured, both by my father's writing and the Register at Bolton that this is the day of my Baptizing, which was as I suppose not long after my birth, old Adam Hilton (my grandmother Heywood's brother) was my goff or godfather (as then used), Mtris

Andrews, of little Leaver-hall was my godmother, so called, held me at the font, when the minister (I suppose Mr. William Gregg, that marryed my present wiues sister) had sd: the words, in the name of the father, Son, and holy ghost she stept back off the stone and suffered him not to crosse me with the sign of the crosse." This occurrence in after years created in the mind of young Heywood many thoughts of misgiving, and he attributed thereto the cause of his nonconformity to some of the ceremonies of the Church of England, particularly to that of "crossing" at baptism. He further writes, "Little did they, or such as presented me [at baptism], imagine that the stepping down and preventing that ceremonious rite of the crosse that it was a presage of my being a N[on] C[onformist] minister, to bear my testimony agt. those superstitious usages, and preaching and suffering so much for the good old cause of Puritanism and Nonconformity."

The year following that of Oliver Heywood's baptism, another child was received into the Church. This was John, the son of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, and who afterwards succeeded to his father's title. Of this circumstance, Dr. John Bridgeman (Bishop of Chester), who at that time resided at Lever Hall, Great Lever, which he purchased along with the Manor in 1629 from the Assheton family, recorded in his "Accounts":—"On Tuesday morning, 16 August, 1631, early, about a quarter of an hour before two of the clock that morning, my son Orlando's* second child (his first son) was born in the chamber next to the Lord's chamber, under the Study Gallery in Great Lever, and baptized by name John, in the Church of Bolton Moores, on Sunday following, viz., 21 August, by Mr. Greg, Vicar of Bolton (because that Church was nigh), but in the presence of the minister of Middleton, whom I sent for purposely, because Lever was in Middleton parish."†

It was arranged that the clergy in the Diocese of Chester should pay three yearly contributions, commencing in 1634, towards the repairs of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. This was accordingly done, but the Vicars whose stipends were poor were

* Sir Orlando Bridgeman, eldest son of the Bishop, was Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and afterwards Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. He was the first nobleman advanced to the dignity of baronet by Charles II. after the Restoration, by the name of Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Great Lever.—*Clegg's Chronological History of Bolton.*

† *Memoir of Dr. John Bridgeman*, p. 17, by Rev. G. T. O. Bridgeman, Rector of Wigan,

exempted. Amongst these was the Vicar of Bolton, who would be Mr. Gregg. Rev. Alexander Horrockes, Vicar of Dean, paid 3s. 4d. on two occasions, and Rev. Robert Walkden, Rector of Radcliffe, paid twice 6s. 8d.

In the year 1635, when Humphrey Chetham, Esq., was filling the office of High Sheriff of Lancashire, Mr. Gregg paid "xij^{d}" as his proportion of the shipping tax, or "ship money," and for the same object in 1637 he paid 2s. 4d. as an assessment on his ecclesiastical living, and 1s. 4d. additional, upon his "temporal estate." Contributions were solicited from the clergy in aid of the war against the Scotch, and although the name of Vicar Gregg appears on the roll of contributors, no amount is entered against it, which is apparently explained by the Bolton Vicarage being a "poor stipend." It is more probable that the parson did not sympathise with the military contention between the sister countries.

The number of excommunications in Bolton parish during the early part of Mr. Gregg's ministry in the town was very large, consequent upon the great disaffection of many inhabitants to the ecclesiastical government of the country, and their refusal to pay the tithes and Church rates.*

It was during the Vicariate of Mr. Gregg that the great Civil War broke out and spread dire devastation throughout the entire county of Lancashire, not excepting Bolton. Indeed, this town was called upon to play a by no means trivial part in the terrible tragedy. Amongst the victims was, as alleged, Mrs. Alice Gregg, widow of the Vicar, who was "stripped to her smocke,—nay, she having two smockes on, they tooke one of them, and left her scarce old rags to cover her nakednesse."

Tradition says that the Vicar of Bolton was one of four ministers slain during this siege, but this was not so, for it is recorded that at the time of the attack Mrs. Gregg was a widow.† Neither was it Mrs. Gregg who was killed as stated.‡ When the old Parish Church of Bolton was taken down in 1866, a fragment of a gravestone (about 3 feet square) was found within the building, near the font and vestry door, below the surface, inscribed "164— William Gregg, Vicker 14 yeares."

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* Bolton Parish Registers, vol. 2, and chap. xxii. of this work.
† *Exact Relation, &c.*, Chetham Society Pub., vol. ii., pp. 190-4.
‡ Baines's *Lancashire* (1889), vol. iii., p. 175.

The three sieges of Bolton took place on the 16th February, 1642-3, the 28th March, 1644, and the 28th May, 1644. "And during that time," says Mr. Clegg, in his *Annals of Bolton* (1888) p. 51, "the Parish Church was desecrated, and for two years used as a store-house for military accoutrements." From the rampant destruction taking place at that period, the old Parish Register was hidden away beneath the Lecturer's stall in the chancel of the old Church, where it was allowed to lie, forgotten, until accidentally discovered by the parish clerk at the beginning of this century. For this act of forethought Vicar Gregg is credited, as previously stated.

No entry of the Vicar's burial is made in the Parish Register—the records being very badly kept from 1642 to 1657—but his will, which was proved at Chester in 1644, bears date 17th February, 1643, while the date of inventory of his goods was 23rd March, in the same year. Thus an approximate date of the Vicar's death is arrived at, viz., between 17th February and 23rd March. Four sons and two daughters were issue of the marriage of Vicar Gregg with Alice Crompton, of the well-known Puritan family of that name.

CHAPTER XXVII.

VICARS OF BOLTON.—(III).

Excommunications—"Two Honest Ministers" at Bolton—Suspicion and Disaffection—Vicar John Harpur Reported to Government—A Unique Inventory—Vicar Goodwin's "Plain and Full Answers:" They Avail him Nothing—Ejected from the Bolton Vicarage—Preaching in Cottages—Vicar Goodwin's Itinerancy: Meeting-House in Bolton—Residence at Harwood——Death and Burial—A Litigious Parson—John Lever—Peter Haddon, "a worthy, pious, and learned man"—Richard Whitehead's Vicariate—Jeremiah Gilpin.

JOHN HARPUR.—1644.

THE earliest date Mr. John Harpur is recorded to have been connected ministerially with the Parish of Bolton appears in the Parish Registers. First, in the baptismal entries of his children—6th July, 1635—and then as having denounced Martine Thornton, of Bolton, and Richard Haddock, of Turton, on the 28th January, 1637, after excommunication by Dr. Mainwaring. Mr. Harpur also personally excommunicated James Leigh, of Little Bolton, on the 30th August, 1640. This was during the Vicariate of Mr. Gregg, under whom he occupied the Bolton Lectureship.

The Rev. John Harpur was one of the sons of Francis Harpur, who was buried at Radcliffe on the 1st November, 1660, and after whom he named his first son,* who afterwards married

* Several children of the Rev. John Harpur were baptised at Bolton Church. See also notice of Mr. Harpur amongst the Lecturers.

Dorothy, daughter of the Rev. Isaac Allen, B.D., sometime Rector of Prestwich-cum-Oldham, and resided at Stockport. By this marriage there were issue, viz.: Francis (head master of King's School, Chester), John (minister of Gorton, near Manchester, 1703-17), and Isaac (Incumbent of Oldham). The eldest son of the last-named was also educated for the ministry, and married a daughter of the Rev. Mr. Asheton, rector of Middleton. Mr. Harpur "minister of Bolton," was one of the seven ministers entrusted with the distribution of charity in the time of distress caused by the Civil War.

An ordinance, dated 13th December, 1644, of both Houses of Parliament, empowered twenty-one ministers therein named, or any seven of them, to ordain ministers *pro tempore* within the County of Lancaster. They were all of great local influence, and at the same time, were thought to favour the new Presbyterian form of church government. By another parliamentary ordinance, dated 2nd October, 1646, nine Classical Presbyteries were formed in Lancashire. Mr. Harpur became a member of the second classis, and his name heads the list of ministers in the Bolton district, which then comprised the parishes of Bolton, Bury, Middleton, Rochdale, Radcliffe, and Deane.

Without doubt the Rev. John Harpur succeeded Vicar Gregg to the living of Bolton Church, but (statements to the contrary notwithstanding) his institution as Vicar by the Bishop is not at all likely to have taken place. It is more probable that on account of his position at Bolton Church at the time of Vicar Gregg's death his presence was retained as a matter of course, by the Presbyterian government. And, though at a later period his faithfulness to his trust was questioned, he was left undisturbed for the remainder of his life. In 1649 the Inquisitors reported that there were "two honest ministers" at Bolton, who had order from the Committee of Plundered Ministers for £100 a year out of the rectory and bishop's rent of Bolton, and the same out of the bishop's rent in Childwall, and they further presented, "We find in Mr. Anderton's* book a copy of which things were taken by Mr. Harper, Vicar of Bolton."†

The Commonwealth Commissioners, in 1650, presented that "Mr. John Harp [Harpur] and Mr. Richard Goodwyn"

* Mr. Christopher Anderton held the Bolton Rectory estates, which, along with other possessions were sequestred for his delinquency.

† *Parl. Inq.*, Lambeth Library, vol. iii,

were the then "Incumbents, by and w'th the elec'con and consent of all or most of the p'ishioners in the same p'ish, and are men of able p'ts and godly preachinge ministers, and constantly teach on the Lorde's dayes and lecture dayes, but did not observe the last fast day appointed by Act of p'liament; and doe receive the profitts of the said Man'con house and of the said cottages, and have received yearely the some of nyne pounds or thereabouts from the Agents of Sequestra'cons vpon the delinquency of Chr'ofer Anderton, of Lostocke, Esq., farmer, of the said rectory of Boulton for terme of lives, but whether determyned or not wee doe not know, and the residue of their sallery hath beene hitherto payed vnto them yearely of the free contribuc'on of the congregac'on att Boulton."

About this time there appear to have been signs of disaffection to the Government, particularly in Lancashire, and a strict eye was therefore kept upon certain persons by instruction of the Council of State. Officers and soldiers alike were suspected of treason, and punishment awaited those who laid themselves open to warranted suspicion. Some of the clergy, who had become weary of the loose and careless manner in which the Church was governed under the Commonwealth, also gave indications of mistrust of their leaders. Their unsettled condition was reported to the authorities in London, and they were immediately put under surveillance. Amongst these ministers of the gospel was Mr. Harpur, Vicar of Bolton, who, it appears, had been reported for corresponding with the Royalists. Whether such charge was proved against him does not appear, nor is it certain whether he was admonished or warned. He was not, however, removed from his living at Bolton. An interesting letter on this subject was written by command of the Council of State, and addressed from Whitehall, on the 2nd September, 1651 (a month prior to the Earl of Derby's execution at Bolton Market Cross), to Colonels Duckenfield and Birch. A copy of the original letter is preserved amongst the Council of State Proceedings,* and is here submitted:—

Before the receipt of your letter, we had written to the Lord General to send you a standing commission for a court-martial, whether you may proceed against those prisoners and other traitors, in pursuance of the Act of Parliament of the 12th inst. [? ult.] There should be exemplary proceedings against them, that when the punishment reaches to some, the terror may reach to many, to deter them from the like treasons. These proceedings should reach to all officers,

* Vol. xvi., p. 480, in the Public Record Office.

and to every tenth soldier. Those private soldiers not so proceeded against should be sent to the Lord Deputy in Ireland, and there distributed amongst the several regiments. We have referred the manner of sending them away to the Irish and Scotch Committee, with whom you are to correspond. Make strict examination of Mr. Herle, of Winwick, Mr. Harper, of Bolton, Mr. Johnson, of Halshall, Mr. Gee, of Eccleston, and Mr. Latham, of Standish, or any other ministers or persons against whom you have received information of their being assistant to a corresponding with the enemy, and return their examinations, or any others taken concerning them to us, that you may receive further direction.

The Rev. John Harpur resided in Halliwell, and in the government of that township he took very great interest. The accounts of the district from 1640 to 1757 have fortunately been preserved in the original MSS.* From 1640 to 1657 Mr. Harpur was the custodian of the book; and, acting the part of overseer, he entered up all accounts for the greater part of that time. The most interesting entries, however, are the Constables' accounts, especially during the time of the Civil Wars. Therein we find numerous references to the enforced contributions of the inhabitants of Halliwell to assist in the military exploits of the contending armies of King and Parliament in various parts of the country, particularly when in the town of Bolton. Not only was money demanded, but also shelter, food, horse, and equipment for the soldiery. On the 20th March and 28th day of May respectively, Mr. Harpur advanced one horse (prescribed by appointment of the committee), valued at £6 10s. 0d., and another horse for the public, valued at £6 13s. 4d. He also provided "a horseman's piece to Captain Markland" (worth £1) which was not returned. There was lost at the taking of Bolton, belonging to Mr. Harpur, "4 muskets, one pistole, one rapier, one drumme, and one halberd, worth £6 5s. 0d." Besides these losses it is recorded that Mr. Harpur "quartered Capt. Patison and his Lieutenant, 6 men, and horse of Collonel Copley, & 2 men one night; 15 men and horse of Collonel Coppley 29 dayes and nights; 3 men and horse of Collonel Rigbie 2 nights and one daye;" for which the Constable paid him £3 5s. 0d. Another entry in the Halliwell township book states that Mr. Harpur held land or free farms in that locality to the extent of 36a. 1r. 0p., which to this day is known as "The Harpurs."

On the 24th February, 1657, the Rev. John Harpur, Vicar of Bolton, and colleague of the Rev. Richard Goodwin, his immediate successor, died, and two days later his interment took

* In the Bolton Reference Library. The original has been copiously extracted by Mr. J. K. Waite, the Librarian, and by him inserted in the columns of *The Bolton Chronicle.*

place in Deane Churchyard, on the south-east side of the chancel buttress.

Upon the death of Mr. Harpur, an inventory of his "goods and chattels" was taken on 11th March, by "Richard Meddowcroft, of Breightmett, gent., John Johnson, Robert Ward, George Sweetlove of Halliwell, and Ellis Crompton of Lostocke, yeoman." The inventory produced a total of £511 19s. 7d., made up thus:—"In cashe, £95 6s. 8d.; in the barne in oates, barley, haye, timber posted and vnposted, £45 18s. 8d.; in husbandry ware, wood, hewer, stone, and other goods without the house, £28 12s. 10d.; in furniture & other goods within the house, £107 13s. 3d.; in bookes, £81 4s. 2d.; in plate, £12; in gould Ringe, £1; in *pecunijs immoratis*, £14 14s. 0d.; in debts oweinge to the testator, £115; the testator's apparel, £10; in huslement of the house, 10s."

RICHARD GOODWIN.—1657.

First let us dispel the erroneous supposition that Richard "Caningwood," who was instituted to the Vicarage of Bolton-le-Sands on the 23rd March, 1639, is identical with Richard "Goodwin," the successor to Vicar John Harpur in the benefice of Bolton. This is a misconception of a writer* in Baines's *History of Lancashire*. Piccope (vol. xviii., p. 279) and Roper (vol. ii., p. 12) are at one in claiming Caningwood, or rather "Collingwood," as of Bolton, near Lancaster, and their declarations are reinforced by an extract from the Registers of Marton, in Prestbury Parish, co. Chester, viz.:—"1653.—Richard Collingwood, Rector of Boulton in the Sands, in the Countie of Lancaster, and sometymes Minister of Marton, was buried, Nov. 24." This is proof positive of his Vicarial whereabouts.

However, turning to Richard Goodwin, we are informed by Calamy, that "he was born in Sussex, being very providentially brought into this country, where God had much work for him." After graduating at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. and M.A. degrees, he was ordained by Bishop Bridgeman at Great Lever. He also preached sometime at Cockey Chapel; "but," says Calamy, "in the Civil War, when the town of Bolton was taken by Prince Rupert, 1645 [? 1644], he fled to Hull, and from thence to London,

* Baines's *Lancashire* (1889), vol. iii., p. 176.

where he was recommended to a parsonage at Hargreaves, in Northamptonshire, which was a pleasant and advantageous situation. But the temper of the people not suiting him, he had not much satisfaction amongst them, and therefore in a little time he removed back into Lancashire, and accepted the Vicarage of Bolton, where he continued preaching with great success for twenty years, till he was ejected in 1662."

The earliest evidence we have of Mr. Goodwin in this district dates February, 1643-4, when he signed, as a witness, the will of Vicar William Gregg. At that critical time in the history of the country, and in which Bolton was acting an important part, Mr. Goodwin's early views of Nonconformity ripened into a zeal which must have been noticed and acknowledged by those in power. His faithfulness to his conscientious scruples secured for him the confidence of the classis, and the military heads of the Commonwealth.

In the year 1645, as already stated, he left Bolton; but his absence was not for long. According to the minutes of the Bolton and Bury Classis of the 20th May, 1647, Mr. Richard Goodwin was approved on to be "minister assistant at Bolton." Therefore, Goodwin is clearly defined as the "assistant" or "Curate" of Bolton; and this position he held until the death of Vicar Harpur in 1657. Some writers would have us believe that Goodwin was Vicar all the time of his ministry in Bolton;* but the above facts show that such was not the case. Further substantiation is found in the written statement of Mr. Goodwin in answer to certain questions as to his ordination and other matters affecting his ministry at Bolton. Both questions and answers are as interesting as important, whilst on account of their originality they have been copied in full and are here presented :—

BOLTON-LE-MOORS.

April 10, 1662.†—*The Plain and full answer of Richard Goodwin, Minister of the Gospell at Bolton-le-Moores, in Lancashire, to the Articles of ffrancis Anderton, Esquire, exhibited in the Con-*

* Rev. Canon Raines's note in Chetham Soc. Pub., vol. xix., p. 14. Palmer's edition of Calamy's *Nonconformists' Memorials*, vol. ii., p. 354. Croston's edition of Baines's *History of Lancashire*, vol. iii., p. 176. *Clegg's Annals of Bolton. Whittle's History of Bolton;* and Briscoe's *Handbook on Bolton.*

† From Bishops' Registry, a copy of which has been written by Canon Raines in his 22 vol., p. 318.

sistory Court att Chester, ffebr'y 27, 1661, *against him ye s'd Minister.*

1.—To ye first ye said Minister sayth: That hee ye sd. Richard Goodwin hath bene a Minister of ye Gospell Labouringe in ye worke of ye Ministry (though unworthy of that employment) above 22 years; [*] of wch. time above 14 yeares laste paste hee hath laboured att Bolton aforesayde, & was settled in ye Vicaridge of ye sd. Bolton in ye yeare 1657 (accordinge to ye manner of those times) att ye desire of ye People by ye commiss'ners for approbation of Publicke Preachers under theire seale, & takes himselfe conformed in ye Place or by ye Act for Confirming & restoreinge of Ministers, 1660.

2.—To the seconde ye sd. Minister sayth: That hee hath endeavoured (accordinge to ye measure of Grace bestowed upon him) faithfully to dischardge his duty as a minister of ye Gospell in ye sd. Bolton accordinge to ye Rules of God's Holy Worde, & that Liberty graunted & declared, for Conscientious Persons that carry peaceably in ye Lande, by the Kinge's most excellt. Majesty in his Declaration concerninge Ecclesiasticall affaires Octob. 25, 1660; wch. sd. Declaration his Majesty conjures all his Lovinge subjects to acquiesce in & submitt to, wch. therefore may not only bee helde out as answer to this, but to ye followinge articles also. Yett further & particularly

3.—To the third ye sd. Minister sayth: That hee hath (accordinge to ye fornamed Liberty graunted him) continued his usual adminis'tions (often graciously owned & blessed from heaven), havinge bene willinge in so doeinge humbly to waite what the honourable Parliament now in beinge shall please (through ye good hande of God upon them) to determine concerninge Church matters, rather than by makeinge any over-hasty and (possibiy) unsatisfyinge alteration to prejudge & forestall theire determination.

4.—To ye fourth ye sd. Minister sayth: That his not publishinge ye Excom'unication (only once helde out to him in another man's hande, and that when he was come into ye Church & Pewe, ready to begin ye Publicke Worship of God) was not out of any contempt of ye Court (or any p'son) but out of true conscience of his duty in a business of that great concernment, ffor (if hee understandes ye nature of Excom'unication) that terrible censure ought not to be published (or concluded) against any p'son but upon very weighty & notorious groundes & causes, & then understandingly, considerately, wth. holy Awe and Reverence towardes God, & solemne pitty towardes ye p'son to bee so censured: and therefore requires (att leaste) ye knowledge of ye person against whom & ye Crimes for wch. such a censure ought to bee denouns't, that there may not bee an unexcusable abusinge of that highest & most dreadfull censure by makeinge itt as a business of ordinary & petty concernemente upon every small & inconsiderable occasion. Now ye Minister sayth further: That hee (ye sd. Minister) beinge altogether unacquainted wth. ye Person so excom'unicated (hee being none of his Congregation but livinge wth. in ye Parochiall Chappelry of Blackroode) nor understandinge what his fault was that had exposed him to so grievous a censure; hee durst not in conscience publish a thinge of that nature w'thout better satisfaction than hee then had, or yett hath. And further he sayth, That hee ye sd. Minister himselfe (so farre as he understandes) neither hath exercised nor doth Exercise any Ecclesiasticall jurisdiction temerasiously as is falsely objected against him.

5.—To the fift ye sd. Minister sayth: That ye Holy Sacrament of ye Lord's Supper hath been constantly administered in Bolton aforesayde, accordinge to ye custome of ye place, & in that carefull manner that God's holy worde requires & (in parte) is called for even by ye Rubricke of ye Com'on Prayer Booke, & (more fully) by his most gracious Majestye's forenamed Declaration. As to the Parishioners refusinge to pay their Easter Duetyes to ye said ffrancis Anderton, esquire, Itt may truely bee affirmed that there may bee, and are, other greater and more reall causes of that, than that only one wch. is p'tended As 1. Hee (ye sd. ffrancis Anderton, esquire), provides not breade & wine for ye Lord's Supper (accordinge to former custome) three times in ye yeare att & about Easter; whereby (haveinge w'helde itt for eight or nine yeares laste paste) hee hath damadged the Towne and poore no litle, & may (perhaps) bee thought (although hee imperiously & vexatiously exacts them of ye poore Parishioners) to have worthily forfeited his Easter-dues, & 2. Hee also wth. holdes att his pleasure (one time after another) that little Pension or Maintenance of ten pounds pr. ann. that belonges to ye Minister of Bolton aforesd., ye only certaine maintenance reserved & left him out of all ye benefits of ye Place (although ye sd. Minister is called upon & caused to pay), as if hee did duely receive ye sd. maintenance or pension, whilst yett itt is wth. helde, the Tenths of ye whole Place & procuration & Synodall money (no small parte of ye sd. Pension), wch. sd. Pension (notwithg.) the sd. ffrancis Anderton, esquire, by his Lease (whereby hee claymes ye Tithes & Church-dues of ye sd. Bolton) is required to pay every halfe yeare; & therefore (by

* From Bishops' Registry, a copy of which has been written by Canon Raines in his 22 vol., p. 318.

not payinge itt as hee ought) hee may give ye People juste cause to grudge him ye Priviledge of his Lease, seeinge hee himselfe performes not what his Lease requires. But if ye Court resolve (wch. God in mercy forbid) to countenance ye sd. ffrancis Anderton, Esquire, in his abusive carriadges both towardes minister and people, & encourage him against them whilst hee doth ye wronge & they receive ye wronge. Whether this bee ye way to bringe ye Court or ye Episcopall government into Reputation lett wise men judge.

6.—To ye sixt ye Minister sayth: Whatsoever ye jurisdictn. of ye Consistory Court att Chester is over ye Parish of Bolton in Lancashire, hee envyes itt not, but prayes Itt may not bee more for theire owne hurt than others benefitt. And as to his owne particular: Itt shall bee his care (through ye Lord's assistance) accordinge to the best of his knowledge & ability, to give that that is ye Court's to ye Court & that that is God's to God, & hee hopes ye Court will not require more of him; but rather

7.—Lastly,—The premises considered That ye Court will graunt him, ye said Minister (as hee prayes), ffreedome from further trouble & cost about these matters, & enjoyne the sd. ffrancis Anderton, Esqre., to make full amendes for ye wronge hee hath done the sd. Minister & people hitherto; that so the sd. Minister may chearfully and quietly proceede in ye dischardge of his duety and the People bee edified in theire most holy fayth. Hereby (through divine goodnes) the Court may give occasion to (such as shall notice of such theire proceedinges), peaceable & pious ministers & people (that desire to serve God in truth) to hope well; & to popishly affected persons (that faine woulde domineire & corrupt & abuse theire neighbours) to lay aside theire wicked & presumptuous expectations.

RICHARD GOODWIN.

In a duplicate copy of these answers Vicar Goodwin has written the following addition:—

& hath bene so acknowledged & approved by ye nationall Assembly about 18 yeares since, who concluded him a minister of ye Gospell sufficiently ordained & needinge no further ordination, although ordained but deacon after ye Episcopall manner, yett att full 24 yeares of age beinge Mr. of Arts & haveinge had ye approbation of 2 bishops before his sayde ordination.

It is worthy of note that the following concerning the rev. gentleman was given in the preceding year:—

February 27th, 1661.—In the name of God Amen. We, John Wainwright, Doctor of Laws, Vicar General in spiritual matters and principal Official of the reverend father and Lord in Christ, the Lord Henry [Ferne], by divine permission Bishop of Chester, lawfully supported, do give to you, Richard Goodwin, Clerk, Vicar of the perpetual Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton, in the County of Lancaster, of the Diocese of Chester, all and singular the articles, chapters, or interrogatories following concerning the safety of your soul and the reformation of your manners and excesses, from our office, at the promotion of Francis Anderton, Esquire, former or lawful tenant of all and singular the tithes or other ecclesiastical rights belonging to the Parish Church of Bolton aforesaid, which, and each of which, we shall review and point out. We will, require, and command of you a full, plain, and faithful answer to be given.

1.—First we review and testify that you, Richard Goodwin, are constituted to the office of a deacon and to priesthood in holy orders, and for five, four, three, two, or at least one year last elapsed you were, and at present are, Vicar of the perpetual Vicarage of the Parish Church of Bolton aforesaid, and so throughout the whole time aforesaid you were and are commonly called, held, had, named, and reputed, openly, publicly, and notoriously. And we review and testify to them jointly, severally, and concerning any one of them.

2.—It'm, we review and testify the premises notwithstanding you the sayd Richard Goodwin doe refuse to p'forme the duty and office of a minister or vicar in the sayd parish Church of Bolton by refusinge to reade the booke of Common prayer before the publiq congregation on Sundayes and holydayes, and to deliver the holy sacraments of the Lord's supper and publick baptisme to the parishioners ther accordinge to the Lithurgye of the Church of England, the penalty of the law to be incurred in that behalf. And we review as above.

3.—It'm. That you the sayd Richard Goodwin were legally served with an order from the Co'rt requiring you as vicar or minister of Bolton aforesayd to p'forme your function in the celebrating of divine service and administration of the sacram'ts according to the established Lawes of this Land and Canons of the Church as aforesayd, yet notwithstanding you, the sayd Richard Goodwin, doe still persist in your refusall thereof, and obstinately doe neglect and deny to p'forme obedience to your ordinary and his Authoritye, incurring thereby the danger of the Lawes and giving evil example to others,

4.—It'm. That you, the sayd Richard Goodwin, in contempt of the jurisdiction of this Co'rt, have and doe still refuse to publish an excommunication decreed forth of this Co'rt, and under the usual scale of this Co'rt, on the parte and behalfe of the sayd ffrancis Anderton, Esq., against Alexander Rigbye, of Blackrod, in the sayd parish of Bolton, but of your owne accord you have & doe tem'ariously exercise Ecclesiasticall jurisdiction by suspendinge, excommunicating, enjoyning pennance, and the like. And we review as above.

5.[a]—It'm. That you, the sayd Richard Goodwin, have & doe refuse or neglect to deliver the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Easter, according to the Law and the Cannons of the Church, whereby the Parishioners doe refuse, or at the least murmure to pay their Easter dutyes to the sayd ffrancis Anderton, Esq., according to the laudable & ancient custome of that parish. And we review as above.

6.—It'm. That you, the sayd Richard Goodwin, were & are of the aforesayd parish of Bolton and diocese of Chester, and so subject to the jurisdiction of this Co'rt. And we review as above.

7.—Item, that all and singular the premises were and are true, public, notorious, and equally manifest and famous; and the public voice and fame have laboured and at present do labour by and under the same. Wherefore, faith being made by the law in this behalf required, this party demands that right and justice be done and shown to him and to his part in the premises with effect. Also that the aforesaid Richard Goodwin, on account of his excesses aforesaid, may be canonically corrected and punished, and that he may be condemned in the lawful expenses on the part and by the part of the aforesaid Francis Anderton, and so being condemned that he may in like manner be forced and compelled to the real and effectual payment of the same; and, further, that there may be done, ordered, and decreed in the premises, and whatsoever things concerning them that shall be . . . . . of the law. Which premises this party prefers and asks to be made jointly and severally, not contracting himself to prove all and singular the Articles, nor to the burden of superfluous proof, from which he protests, but to what extent it shall be proved in the premises, so far he may obtain the benefit of the law in his requests in all things, always being safe by humbly imploring your office (Lord Judge aforesaid) in this behalf.

[ENDORSED.]

. . . . . of Francis Anderton, Esquire, against Richard Goodwin, shown on the 27th day of February, 1661.

BY THE COURT.

Vicar Goodwin's answers and pleas of 1662 availed him nothing—he was not accorded "ffreedome from further trouble" in spite of his earnest ministrations, his consistent life, and the love borne him by his flock. With 2,000 of his clerical brethren in different parts of the country, including thirteen in Bolton and district and nearly 60 others in Lancashire, he was ejected, 1662, from the living of Bolton. But Goodwin laboured on. Not as Vicar, it is true, yet none the less acceptably. He founded congregations of his own in private dwellings, joined doubtless by not a few individuals who appreciated his efforts in connection with the Bolton Vicariate. In the course of a brief period, however, the Conventicle Act came into operation, and once more Goodwin had to be very careful concerning his actions. The provisions of the Act—which were rigorously enforced—set forth that all meetings of more than five individuals besides those of the family, for any religious purpose not according to the Book of Common Prayer, were seditious and unlawful; and heavy pecuniary fines and long terms of imprisonment were imposed upon persons held to be offenders. Then followed the "Five Mile

Act" of 1665, forbidding—as we shall see in the chapter to be devoted to the rise of Nonconformity in Bolton—dissenting ministers to approach and preach within five miles of the town wherein they had officiated at the time of ejectment on penalty of fines and imprisonment. Because of this measure being passed Goodwin had perforce to seek refuge outside the town—he removed to Manchester, and lent himself to studious and godly habits.

Like his fellow sufferer Robert Parke, Goodwin could not remain away from Bolton. He came over occasionally on short visits, and he actually officiated in the Parish Church, as proved by the marriage register. One wedding at which he presided bears date February 23rd, 1668. Ultimately, Mr. Goodwin was established as the head of a body of Nonconformist worshippers who met in premises in Mealhouse Lane, off Deansgate, behind the site of the now restored Woolpack Inn. His licence as a preacher dates from the year 1672. The room, or chapel, measured 26 feet by 18 feet only, and was well filled every service, certain members of his old congregation following Mr. Goodwin thither from the Parish Church. The Rev. Franklin Baker has said, "The ejected minister (Mr. Goodwin) continued to preach for about 13 years in the only place of religious worship then in the town besides the Parish Church. The population, hardly a fraction of what it is at present, generally gave their sympathy to their old pastor, even if they attended public worship at the Parish Church; while the more ardent of his adherents, especially those who appreciated the principle of the separation, and preferred the spirit or system of Nonconformity, attached themselves with zeal to the new congregation, revered its minister, and identified themselves with the cause which they had so nobly supported."

We may be sure that, with such an earnest man leading, the meetings would be devout in tone and beneficial. Failing health alone kept Mr. Goodwin away from regular attendance at this Nonconformist Meeting Room, death ending his chequered life in the month of December, 1685. Mr. Goodwin was then in his 73rd year. His wife pre-deceased him, February 20th, 1650, and was interred in the Parish Church, as were the remains of Mr. Goodwin, the Parish Church Register testifying, "Mr. Richard Goodwin, of Harwood, formerly minister of Bolton

(buried) 25th December, 1685, *intra ecclesia*" (under the Church).

With regard to Mr. Goodwin being described as of Harwood, it is a fact that he held a residence in that township. One writer has said Goodwin lived in a room adjoining the meeting place in Mealhouse Lane, and certainly the stuccoed ceiling of one of the rooms in the Old Woolpack Inn bore evidence of having belonged at one time to a sitting room of a private residence.* Dr. Calamy has said that Mr. Goodwin died in Bolton. The Parish Church Register destroys this theory, unless the noted preacher expired in the town while on a journey from Harwood.

That Richard Goodwin resided at Harwood there is ample proof. John James Heywood is shown by title deed under date June 15th and 16th, 1790, to have become possessed of land, messuages, &c., held by Richard Goodwin.

A two storey residence spoken of in the indenture is one still extant in Harwood, and behind where the White Horse Inn still stands, upon the north side of the highway from Bolton to Nab Gate, in Harwood, and to Tottington. The place is known to this day as Goodwin Fold.

ROBERT HARPUR.—1662.

Beyond the references to Rev. Robert Harpur in the chapters devoted to the Bolton Lectureship Estate and the Lecturers,† very little is known of this minister. As the successor of Richard Goodwin and Robert Parke, it was not in human nature that he would be welcomed with open arms. For as we have seen in the life of Goodwin, and as will be gathered from the sketch of Parke's stirring career,‡ both were beloved throughout the periods of their ministrations; a great wave of sympathy went out towards them because of their courage, endurance, and losses. Men's minds and hearts followed the two in their ejectment; there was hoping against hope for the return of both. Needless to remark, also, settled opinions prevailed as to the broader questions at issue, and the word "persecution" was heard in different quarters. Not only the

* Mr. J. W. Wallace, architect, of Bolton, took a careful drawing of the ceiling prior to demolition of the premises, and has it still in his possession.

† Chapter xxx. of this work.

‡ See Chapter xxx.

congregation attending the Parish Church but the inhabitants at large were divided, and excitement continued for some time.

It was while public feeling was stretched to the uttermost, and when the worshippers in Church were tempted to go wrong more than ordinarily, that Robert Harpur was appointed to the dual office of Vicar and Lecturer. Apart, however, from sentiments that would be experienced in sundry minds because he did not hesitate to discharge functions and obey mandates to which Richard Goodwin and Robert Parke refused to be parties, Robert Harpur was not gifted with the sweetest and most serene of dispositions. A charge by him against Richard Goodwin for the repair of the Vicarage house, his suit with the parishioners *re* the Lectureship Estate, and his conduct as a whole, could not endear him very deeply, could not make him popular with the people; nor is it likely that one of his temperament would distress himself in doing good. The Vicariate was held by him from 24th August, 1662, and vacated in the middle of August, 1671. Possibly the Rev. Robert had had enough of the straightforward, outspoken folks of Bolton, as they seem to have been quite content to allow him to fall into a retirement concerning which records are silent.

JOHN LEVER.—1673.

Rev. Michael Stanford filled the office of Vicar, as well as that of Lecturer, from August, 1671, to 1673. He vacated the living in the latter year on preferment, and actually inducted his successor, Mr. John Lever, after being collated by Dr. John Pearson, Bishop of Chester (the learned author of "Exposition of the Creed"), on the nomination of Lord Bridgeman, patron of the living. The following is the local official record of the induction*:—

"John Leauer, clerke, son of Thomas Leauer of Chamber, gentleman, beinge collated to the Vicarage of Bolton by Dr. John Pearson, Lord Bishop of Chester, accordinge to the nominacon of the Lord Bridgeman, was Inducted into the said Vicarage by the hands of Mr. Michaell Stamford, the imediate precedeinge vicar, the one and thirtieth day of July, in the yeare of o'r Lord one thousand sixe hundred seaventie & three. Those persons here-

* Bolton Church Baptismal Register, 1673. The entry is in Mr. Lever's handwriting, and is appended to a record of one of his children's baptism.

after named then subscribeing their names as witnesses thereof, viz.:

Ja: Grundy.	Robert Roscow.	James Leaver.
Jo: Fovell.	William Baldwin.	Henry Norres.
		Anthony Welles."

Very little that is authentic is known concerning Mr. Lever's earlier life. As far as can be gathered he laboured in the parish of Leigh (Lancashire) for some time prior to coming to Bolton. The entry to which the writing bearing on his induction as Vicar of Bolton is appended is the following:— "John Leaver, son of Mr. John Leaver, of Chamber, Clark, was born at the Vicarage of Leigh the 27th day of September, 1671, and was baptised in Leigh Church the 6th October followinge." Mr. John Tilsley, minister at Deane, and Mr. Michael Stanford, then Vicar of Bolton, were godfathers, and Mrs. Leigh, of Westleigh, was godmother. There is an entry of the birth and baptism of another child to Mr. Lever, at Leigh, likewise, pointing clearly to the fact that he was preferred from being Vicar of that parish to Bolton. Vicar Lever has been confounded with Rev. John Lever, who was ejected from Cockey Moor Chapel, Ainsworth, lying between Bolton and Bury. This John Lever was a native of Bolton, and was educated at the Bolton Grammar School and at Oxford. After his ejection he preached in his own house in Bolton and even at Ainsworth occasionally, was the successor to Rev. Richard Goodwin at the Nonconformist Meeting Room in Mealhouse Lane. He died in 1692, aged 57, and was interred in the Bolton Parish Churchyard. Upon his gravestone is the inscription, "Here lyeth the body of the Revd. John Lever, born in this town, a faithful minister of the gospel, who was baptised the 11th day of September, 1631, and departed this life the 4th day of July, 1692."

Vicar John Lever attended to the spiritual wants of the congregations that assembled in the Bolton Parish Church for upwards of 18 years. His name often occurs in the Registers and other Church documents; he was an active man, and one who left his mark behind him. Mr. Lever was the Vicar at the period of the Revolution in 1688, when William of Orange ascended the throne of the realm. He built the Vicarage house, the parishioners assisting him. The rev. gentleman's death is entered in the Register in these words: "Mr. John Lever, late

Vicar of B., died October the 29th, and was Buryed the one and thirtieth, 1691." Vicar Lever died in his 66th year. His tombstone* is in the churchyard, south-east of the Church. It was during Rev. John Lever's Vicariate that refusal was made to permit of an ornamental marble stone being placed over the last resting place of Sir Charles Anderton, under the Communion table in the Bolton Parish Church. This was in the year 1690. Sir Charles was "lay rector" of Bolton.

PETER HADDON.—1691.

Rev. Peter Haddon, M.A., "a worthy, pious, learned man, Vicar of Bolton 29 years, by whose death his friends had a loss, but the world a greater,"† was the successor to Rev. John Lever. He was cousin of Dr. Cartwright, Bishop of Chester, and served him as chaplain.‡ On coming to Bolton Mr. Haddon quickly became a favourite with his congregation and the townsfolk at large, he being affable in the extreme, withal dignified, and an excellent preacher. A comparatively short period only had elapsed after his induction ere Vicar Haddon launched a scheme for "setting the Parish Church in order," and how thoroughly the plan was put into practical shape has already been shown.§ In brief, the Church was restored. From the year 1700 to 1714, roof, windows, bells, and clock were properly attended to. Nor was the interior of the sacred edifice neglected, "the Communion table being railed in and the chancel wainscotted as theretofore."

That Vicar Haddon was essentially a man of peace one instance will demonstrate. In a letter to Chancellor Wainwright, dated 11th September, 1716, Mr. Haddon, the Vicar of Bolton, says¶:—"The Lord Bishop of Chester (you know) is Patron of Bolton; I, as Vicar thereof, doe and will consent to whatever his Lordship shall advise and think fit to be done as to fixing the right of nomination of a Curate at Turton Chappel in Mr. Chetham, who is settling a salary on a Curate there in order to obtain Queen Anne's Bounty. While that Chappel is under the cognizance of the Ordinary, I do not forsee any prejudice can

* See Chapter xxi., p. 194.
† Bolton Parish Church Register.
‡ See Hunter's Edition of Bishop Cartwright's Journal, published for the Camden Society, 4to, 1843.
§ Chapter xvii. of this volume.
¶ Chetham Society Publications, vol. 19, p. 23.

arise to the Vicars of Bolton in future times, and am confident none will in Mr. Chetham's life, who is a very worthy gentleman. If any thing more express than what I have wrote is requisite and required, you shall have it readily."

Vicar Haddon died April, 1721, and was buried in the chancel of the Parish Church immediately in front of the Communion table. By will dated 6th March, 1720, the rev. gentleman, after bequeathing his soul to God and his body to the grave, gives to John Haddon his son the remainder of his books with those he already had. He also gave him ten pounds in money; to Bretton Haddon his daughter £100; and the residue to Elizabeth Haddon his wife and sole executrix.

THOMAS MORRALL.—1721.

Although Rev. Thomas Morrall was in possession of the Vicariate of Bolton from the year 1721 to 1737, the year of Rev. Edward Whitehead's induction, we need not stay to dwell on its history. The Vicariate was uneventful, save that Mr. Morrall continued the good work carried on by Mr. Haddon in relation to Church restoration, and All Saints' Church ("Chapel-in-the-Fields"), Little Bolton, was erected as a chapel of ease to the Parish Church in 1726. He was the son of John Morrall, gent., and Judith his wife, of Dudlyston, Salop, was M.A. of All Souls' College, Oxon, was minister of Over Whitacre and Curate of Sheldon, in Warwickshire, chaplain to Dr. Francis Grestwell, Bishop of Chester, and was collated to the Vicarage of Bolton 14th September, 1721, the Rev. S. Aldersey, Vicar of Wigan, cousin of the patron, officiating as inductor "on ye 23rd of ye same month."* The witnesses who attested were Saml. Chetham, Thos. Smith, Charles Moreton, Sam. Lever, Jas. Rothwell, Thos. Johnson, and Richard Craven. A number of books were given by Mr. Morrall to the Grammar School about 1735. Mr. Morrall was married at the Parish Church, 1730, to Mrs. Ruth Burges. On his death, in 1737, Vicar Morrall was interred in the chancel, opposite the Communion table, by the side of Rev. Peter Haddon, his predecessor.

EDWARD WHITEHEAD.—1737.

A small work on the Rev. Edward Whitehead, M.A., has been printed and published in Bolton, and has been read

* Bolton Parish Church Register.

with a considerable degree of interest by those into whose hands it has fallen*. Though very limited in proportions, the issue treats exhaustively of the main points in a Vicariate extending over the long period of fifty-two years, and of a man of somewhat remarkable parts. Basing mainly the outlines here given on what is produced in this *brochure* (solely from searches and researches by the author), Mr. Whitehead was, like his pre-

VICAR WHITEHEAD.

decessor at Bolton, the son of a Shropshire gentleman, Mr. Edward Whitehead, of Dedluck. The subject of this sketch was educated at Balliol College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. in 1733 and his M.A. three years afterwards, when he was ordained priest by the Bishop of Hereford.

Young Whitehead had been ordained a short time only, during which period he was Curate at Shrewsbury, when he was collated Vicar of Bolton by the Bishop of Chester (Dr. Peploe),

* Memoir of the Rev. Edward Whitehead, M.A., Vicar of Bolton from 1737 to 1789, by Jas. C. Scholes. Bolton: Tillotson & Son, *Journal* Office, 1889.

and on the 24th November, 1737, was formally inducted to the benefice. Before six months had passed he was engrossed in the most difficult task of restoring—or, perhaps, more correctly speaking, of repairing—the Old Parish Church. The story of the alterations to the sacred edifice, and the protracted dispute Vicar Whitehead had with his parishioners in relation to liability, has been told in a preceding chapter of this work.*

In the year 1740, the Bishop of Chester granted, for the purpose of augmenting the endowment of the Vicarage of Bolton,† the lease of the Rectory of Bolton to Orlando Bridgeman, Esq., and "arranged that the yearly sum of £36 should be paid by the Impropriator as a perpetual endowment of the Vicarage. That sum was estimated to be of about the same value as the small tythes of the whole parish."

Mr. Whitehead was appointed a magistrate 22nd April, 1766, and another honour was bestowed upon him 17th April, 1780,—that of a King's Preacher,—one of pecuniary benefit to him to the extent of £44 per annum. He died 9th March, 1789, in his 77th year, and was laid in the Old Parish Church, a tablet being raised to his memory by his son, the Rev. Christopher Whitehead, M.A.‡ The tablet is to be seen in the organ chamber of the new Church.

Vicar Whitehead was twice married. His first wife bore him five sons and one daughter, and his second—who was the widow of John Eskrick, Esq., of Bolton—gave birth to one son, Christopher. William Bailey and Edward, sons by the first marriage, became Vicar of Chard and Rector of Evesham respectively.

JEREMIAH GILPIN.—1789.

On the 4th May, 1789, Rev. Jeremiah Gilpin, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Incumbent of Broughton-in-Furness, was collated to the Vicarage of Bolton by the Right Rev. William Cleaver, D.D., Bishop of Chester, and on Friday, the 8th May, was formally inducted to the "real, actual, and corporal possession of the same." Mr. Gilpin was in delicate health when he succeeded Vicar Whitehead, and lived only four years. He had the reputation of being a very earnest clergy-

* Chapter xviii.
† Memoir of Edward Whitehead, M.A., p. 11.
‡ See page 171 of this work.

man, and was especially interested in Sunday schools. An entry was lately met with in a private note book in the possession of a former sexton—Mr. Mangnall—that on 11th April, 1790, a sermon was preached by Mr. Gilpin in the Parish Church, for the Sunday school, and the collection amounted to £40 13s. 2¾d.

The date of Mr. Gilpin's death is 14th November, 1793. His remains were laid in the north-east portion of the churchyard.*

The Church of Broughton-in-Furness contains a tablet to the memory of Mr. Gilpin.

* See page 193 of this work.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

VICARS OF BOLTON.—(IV.)

Rev. Thomas Bancroft's Early Days: Scholastic Triumphs—Headmaster and Minor Canon—Bancroft Elopes with a Wine Merchant's Daughter and is Wounded—Rescue—Escape and Marriage under Difficulties—Collated Vicar of Bolton—Domestic Chaplain—Vicar Bancroft as a Magistrate—Dispute with Colonel Ralph Fletcher—Threats of Personal Violence—Preacher and Parish Priest—Zeal for the Church—Political Views—Declaration of Conformity—Reward for Allegiance—Last Days—Memorials—Bancroft's Literary Efforts—Vicar Brocklebank's Ministry.

THOMAS BANCROFT.—1793.

SO interesting and important were the early days and Vicariate of Rev. Thomas Bancroft, so busy was he in temporal as well as in spiritual matters during the years he held the living of Bolton, and so marked has been the effect of his presence, that no apology is necessary in presenting details at length concerning him.

Rev. Thomas Bancroft was the younger son of Mr. Thomas Bancroft, thread maker, of Manchester, and a remote connection of Mr. Joseph Bancroft, a wealthy merchant, who in the middle of the last century was one of the principal

founders of the Manchester Infirmary, and whose portrait still remains in the Common Room of that noble institution. The Rev. Thomas Bancroft was born in Deansgate, Manchester, in the year 1756. He was admitted, when little more than six years old, a pupil of Mr. Robert Thyer, the second master of the Grammar School, and whilst only a boy was placed under Mr. Charles Lawson, the headmaster. Here he laid the founda-

THOMAS BANCROFT.

tion of his accurate scholarship, and became critically acquainted with the Latin and Greek languages. His poetical tastes were early developed, and his graceful facility of composition soon attracted the notice of Mr. Lawson, so that at an unusually early age he became the head scholar of the school, and was considered one of its most hopeful pupils. In 1772, at the age of about 16, he wrote an essay on classical study and private schools whilst at

the Manchester School, and in the following year his reputation as a writer of Greek and Latin verses was established. At this time he obtained the school prize, the subject of the poem being "The Portsmouth Review;" as in the year preceding he had gained the school prize for the English essay in "Defence of Classical Learning." He was evidently a close student, and had been taught to denounce showy and superficial acquirements as utterly worthless, and as the inevitable result of an education not based on classical learning.

From Manchester School young Bancroft was transferred to Brasenose College, Oxford, where he was entered and went into residence in 1778, under the Rev. Dr. Barker, the Principal. His school prizes and other distinctions secured for him the Manchester exhibition, which he held until 10th October, 1781, when he took his degree of B.A., and in the December of that year he was elected a Hulmeian exhibitioner. This enabled him to continue some years longer a resident on the banks of the Isis. He took in private pupils meanwhile and devoted himself to his favourite classical studies. He also won a Somerset scholarship. Mr. Bancroft was a candidate on the 5th July, 1781, for a fellowship at Brasenose, but did not gain it, his successful competitor being Mr. Robert ffarington, afterwards Rector of St. George's-in-the-East. This loss was a great disappointment to both himself and to Mr. Lawson, his former tutor. Canon Raines states that this contest took place in 1785, that Bancroft received an equal number of votes to his competitor, and that the casting vote was given by Dr. Cleaver, the recently elected Principal, against Bancroft, on the ground that he was the *junior*; on the other hand, Dr. Ormerod, in a private communication to Canon Raines, says that the date was July 5th, 1781, as proved by the College books. Dr. Ormerod also assigns another reason for Bancroft's loss of this fellowship. He says that Dr. Cleaver kept out Mr. Bancroft for temper in connection with the removal of some "thirded" chairs after valuation, and substitution of inferior ones. However, he was from one cause or another deprived of a distinction which he had long sought to obtain, and which his academical progress had encouraged his friends to consider his due. On the 25th June, 1784, he took his M.A., and during the time of his residence in Oxford, 1781-1784, he was occasionally occupied in correcting works passing through

the Clarendon Press. He engaged to correct an excellent edition of Homer printed by this renowned company; the two Falconers were indebted to Bancroft, as to Gresswell and Henry Halliwell, for considerable corrections in "Strabo."

Notwithstanding the fact of Bancroft's failure to higher degrees at Oxford, it is no slight testimony to his classical attainments that he was called from Oxford, by Mr. Lawson, to be the second master of Manchester School. This act of sympathy and kindness was proof of Mr. Lawson's confidence in the ability of his late pupil. The invitation was accepted by young Bancroft, but being shortly afterwards appointed headmaster of King Henry VIII.'s School, at Chester, he was admitted to holy orders, obtained a Curacy in the city of Chester, and was collated to a Minor Canonry in the Cathedral. In the year 1787, Dr. Cleaver, who had been considered by Bancroft as the principal opponent to his election at Brasenose (when a senior fellow of that College, and of which he was afterwards Principal), settled at Chester as Bishop of the diocese. He, of course, found Mr. Bancroft already resident there, and recognising his merits—and probably by way of reparation for his discouragement of Bancroft when at Oxford—one of the first acts of the new Bishop was a reconciliation, with a promise that Bancroft should have the first preferment that fell vacant. In the meantime his lordship obtained for him several private pupils from some of the most distinguished families of Lancashire and Cheshire. Amongst these may be mentioned the second Lord Kenyon, the sons of Sir Thomas Hanmer, Dean Cholmondeley, and his two brothers of Vale Royal, and the second Lord Cloncurry, afterwards bitterly characterised by Bancroft as "the deluded Irish Rebel." The first vacant living appears to have been that of St. Anne's Church, Manchester, but this Mr. Bancroft declined.

In the year 1793 Mr. Bancroft accepted and was collated by Bishop Cleaver to the Vicarage of Bolton, on the death of the Rev. Jeremiah Gilpin, M.A., who was, according to an obituary notice in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of that date, "much lamented by a numerous congregation." This offer was couched in a brief but kindly letter by the Bishop, showing his confidence in the person of his choice as to his abilities in Sunday school work.

Although Bolton was the best living then at the Bishop's own disposal, "the charge," according to Canon Raines, "was

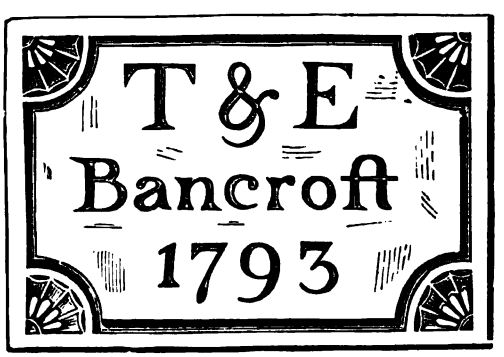
laborious and responsible, and the provision inadequate for such a man, in such a position, so that he still continued to augment his income by taking private pupils." Dr. George Ormerod, afterwards the learned historian of Cheshire, was for some time Mr. Bancroft's only pupil in Bolton, when two or three others were introduced as his fellow students.

When residing in Chester, Mr. Bancroft proposed marriage to and was accepted by Miss Elizabeth Bennett, the only daughter of Mr. Alderman Bennett, of Willaston Hall, Cheshire, an opulent wine merchant, and Mayor of Chester in 1785. The father's consent to this attachment could not be obtained, but the young lady's choice was not to be thus shaken. An elopement was arranged, and a carriage being procured, the lovers succeeded in escaping from the city. The plot was soon discovered, however, and hot pursuit was made by the enraged father and his son. The fugitives were overtaken when only a few miles outside Chester. The father discharged his pistols into the carriage, but fortunately without injury to its terrified occupants. The pair were dragged out of their vehicle, the young lady taken away, and Bancroft was finally left wounded in the leg by a sword-stick or cutlass. Mr. Bancroft's injury proved somewhat more serious than was anticipated, notwithstanding the attention of medical men, under whose care he was placed in Chester. An action was brought against Alderman Bennett, and a warrant issued for his apprehension; upon an intimation of this Mr. Bennett thought it best to seek a place of hiding. He succeeded in escaping to the Swan Hotel, Bolton, where he remained until the result of the inquiry was known, and that Mr. Bancroft was out of danger, but still lame. He then returned to his residence in Chester, and arranged to give Mr. Bancroft compensation amounting to £1000. All this made the love match more distasteful to the young lady's father, and she was closely watched, therefore, under her father's roof. However, by the aid of a young lady friend she was kept in full knowledge of the condition, whereabouts, and intentions of her clerical lover, whose determination to secure his lost love was still unabated. And, as "love laughs at locksmiths," the time soon came when Miss Bennett eluded her father's vigilance and escaped to her future husband, who was in waiting at Trinity Church,* Chester.

* Another report says "St. John's Church."

It is said that she ran out of the house in her cotton dress, and went as hard as she could run to the church. The marriage took place, Mr. Maddock, the Rector, afterwards Prebendary of Chester, officiating.

At this time Mr. Bancroft had not recovered from his wounds, and he was brought into the church in a Sedan chair. As he was too weak to stand, the top of the chair was removed during the ceremony. The couple and their friends then adjourned to Mr. Bancroft's residence in Watergate Street, where a sumptuous repast was ready, and a number of the bridegroom's private pupils waiting to welcome their tutor and his wife. The wedding took place early in the morning. It is said that Mr. Bennett never forgave his daughter, but that on his death he left his two granddaughters £1000 each.



(Fig. 37.)

Reverting to Mr. Bancroft's appointment to the Bolton living, it may be said that the offer was accepted, and in a little over a month from the burial of his predecessor—Rev. Jeremiah Gilpin—he took up his position at Bolton, as shown by the following extract from the Parish Registers:—

Thomas Bancroft, M.A., of Brazen Nose College, Oxford, was collated to the Vicarage of Bolton in the Moors by the Right Reverend William Cleaver, D.D., Lord Bishop of Chester, on the twenty-seventh day of November, 1793, and on Saturday, the twenty-first day of December, was inducted into the real, actual, and corporal possession of the same.

Almost immediately on taking up his residence in Bolton, Mr. Bancroft set about improving the state of the Vicarage House, which had for some time been in a bad state of repair. Besides other minor alterations he erected a library on a portion of the garden overlooking the then clear water of the River Croal, at the back of the house, and over the doorway placed a tablet of slate bearing the above inscription (Fig. 37).

These were his own and his wife's initials, and the date recorded his appointment to the Bolton Vicariate as well as the erection of his library. This study was enlarged or rebuilt some years afterwards.

In the year 1794 another appointment was given to Mr. Bancroft; his reputation as a scholar being recognised by a nobleman (Viscount Castlestewart), whose privilege it was to appoint him as his Domestic Chaplain.

In 1794 the first Corps of Volunteers was raised in Bolton for home defence,* and in 1798, when the number of men in the local army reached 250, or four companies, Vicar Bancroft received an official appointment as Chaplain by Royal warrant, which has been copied and here produced:—

George Rex,—George the Third, by the Grace of God King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To our Trusty and Well-beloved Thomas Bancroft, Clerk, Greeting. We do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be Chaplain to the Bolton Volunteers, commanded by our Trusty and Well-beloved Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Rasbotham. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Chaplain, by doing and performing all and all manner of things thereunto belonging. And you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from Time to Time as you shall receive from your Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant, or any other your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War. Given at Our Court at St. James's the Seventeenth day of May, 1798, in the Thirty eighth year of Our Reign. Entered with the Secretary at War, M. Laiss. Entered with the Comm'der of Musters, Wm. Woodman.

By His Majesty's Command. PORTLAND.

Thomas Bancroft, Chaplain to the Bolton Volunteers.

Almost from the commencement of his residence in Bolton, Vicar Bancroft had been upon the Commission of Peace for the County. In this capacity his disinterested firmness was exemplary, and though always desirous to put down crime in all its phases he was ever ready to be led by the hand of mercy. This has been said by Dr. Ormerod, in a letter to the Rev. Canon Raines, written in 1846, "to have been one of his chief excellencies." Mr. Bancroft had, however, almost ceased to officiate as a Magistrate in 1799, through difference with a brother Justice on matters of an entirely personal nature, but which appears to have been through no fault of the Vicar, for it is recorded that the "circumstances in no way affected him." However, in consequence of a difference with Colonel Ralph Fletcher, Mr. Bancroft ceased to attend the Petty Sessions.

During his magistracy Mr. Bancroft once had the painful duty imposed upon him of reading the Riot Act. This was at a

* See Chapter xxxix.

period of great local disturbance. Afterwards, his character was vilified and his life threatened by misguided and violent men, some of whom subsequently learnt his inestimable worth, not only as a minister of the Gospel, but as a friend to the poor and needy. The incident necessitating the reading of the Riot Act was during the weavers' turn-out in 1808, when great disturbances took place. It is said that not a Magistrate, other than Mr. Bancroft, could be found anywhere who dared read the Act cautioning peace-breakers. The Vicar complied with the request, though with some little diffidence. He proceeded slowly but firmly with his unpleasant task, and warned the mob to disperse before he had concluded the reading, else the military would be upon them. This diplomacy produced the desired effect; the crowd hastily retreated to their homes in all directions. Thus was a riot, which at one time appeared to be inevitable, quelled. The incident has ever since gone by the name of the "Flash Fight."

At the commencement of this century, Bolton was a central point for dragoons and artillery, whose excursions swept the country. Certainly some convictions took place from it, but the result was that the Magistrates were invaded with seditious and threatening letters, whilst treasonable meetings were held on the surrounding hills—gatherings summoned nightly by rockets. On one occasion, at least, the Bolton Parish Church steeple was guarded so that the concerted signal by "backward clang" might not be forcibly stopped. The shock to Mr. Bancroft's system at this time was so great that it almost overwhelmed him, and he is said to have doubted the compatibility of his secular office and his pastoral care.

Mr. Bancroft's eloquence as a preacher, and his simple, vigorous, and unaffected manner in the pulpit, riveted the attention of his numerous congregation, and elicited expressions of admiration from those who assembled Sunday after Sunday within the Sanctuary of God in which he expounded the Scriptures. Indeed, as a parish priest Mr. Bancroft was active and consistent, never indolent or wanting, but always up and doing, employing himself in the discharge of his duties and in enforcing some important maxim in religion or morals. As a proof of his wish for usefulness it may be added that he read aloud, in privacy, every sermon before he preached it, and with-

drew every word which seemed likely to present difficulties or cause misunderstanding to the uneducated portion of his congregation. Hence his popularity amongst all classes, and his unquestionable fitness for the pulpit. In religious matters he appears to have been bold and uncompromising—not hesitating to advocate truths which were not, during his residence in Bolton, very popular in the town. He had paid some attention to the Calvinistic doctrines, and, perhaps unwisely, adopted a course which involved him in polemical controversy in the pulpit, and long proved a source of "weariness and painfulness" to him. His sermon on the election of a minister, preached in St. George's Church, Bolton, about 1799, before a strong Evangelical party, is, however, a judicious and cautious statement of the views of a pious High Churchman.

Mr. Bancroft's enthusiasm for the Church was perhaps only approached by his reverence of Constitutional Monarchy, and love of his country. These also were deeply rooted in his inmost nature, as his motives and actions showed. And highly as he esteemed our national institutions, he always maintained that their value consisted in the results they produced, viz., "the safety, honour, and welfare" of the country, and of "all sorts and conditions of men" in it. To this loyalty his printed sermons bear testimony, and it is worthy of note that the most loyal of them were preached at a period when sedition and heresy were rampant in the wild district surrounding Bolton.

In brief, Vicar Bancroft preached earnest sermons, denounced false principles, exposed popular delusions, wrote patriotic manifestoes, dealt out impartial justice to every class, and on all occasions sustained the reputation of Church, King, and Government.

In the year 1800, Mr. Bancroft took a country house—Sweetloves, near Sharples Hall—and lived there from Monday to Saturday, save on occasional visits to Bolton. The Rev. James Folds, Curate of Walmsley and Lecturer of Bolton (which latter appointment kept him for the most part in the town), and of whom more anon, joined Mr. Bancroft in maintaining one Curate, viz,, the Rev. John Lutener, a writing master. There was no other source of spiritual aid from the establishment in Great or Little Bolton, except from St. George's Church, for the

Rev. Francis Hodson (Master of Bury Grammar School and Curate of All Saints' Church, Little Bolton), only came over from Bury on Sundays, and returned after evening service.

Referring to Mr. Bancroft and his almost anti-antiquarian tastes so far as related to the beauty of the Parish Church, a very interesting note is given in the Manchester School Register, published by the *Chetham Society*. It reads :—

> Many and remarkable as were the excellencies of this Vicar of Bolton, he, like others of his day, was not great in the knowledge of church architecture, nor mindful of the duty of maintaining those peculiar features of his parish church which were most worthy of careful preservation. For it was during his incumbency that the carved wood canopies surmounting the stall of the chancel, and the screen which separates the chancel from the nave, were destroyed. At the same time, the pulpit and reading desk were removed from their ancient site, and placed where they stood until a few months ago (when the church was pulled down), blocking up the view of the altar, "like a three decker in full westward sail," as this frightful and most objectionable arrangement has been called.

To this note much other information might be added, but as the alterations referred to have already received greater attention in another part of this work, it will be unnecessary to further supplement the same here, beyond stating that the progressive nature of Mr. Bancroft would not allow him to stand still, especially in Church matters, and when the convenience and comfort of his congregation were in question. The alterations were undoubtedly for the erection of additional sittings, which had become a necessity because of the increase in the number of the inhabitants of the town.

In the year 1807, Bishop Majendie, of Chester, appointed Mr. Bancroft one of the King's Preachers for the county of Lancaster, which honour he retained until his death.

The official document bearing on this appointment set forth that "Whereas the King's most excellent Majesty hath at his own proper costs and charges founded four preachers' places in the county of Lancaster and our diocese of Chester, and hath endowed each and every of them with the yearly salary or stipend of fifty pounds for this end, that the people of the same county may be instructed in the pure and sincere religion of Christ to the glory of God: the nomination placing or assignment of all which places his said Majesty hath given and granted to us, and our successors Bishops of Chester for the time being, when and as often as the same shall become vacant, know ye that we the said Bishop of Chester have given unto and conferred upon, as by these presents we do give unto and confer upon, Thomas Bancroft, Clerk, Master of Arts, Vicar of the parish of

Bolton-le-Moors, in the said county of Lancaster and our diocese of Chester, one of these places, together with the stipend of fifty pounds of lawful money of Great Britain by the officers of our said Lord the King, to be yearly paid unto the said Thomas Bancroft, for his diligence, labour, and painstaking in the same. . . . We do nominate, ordain, admit, and constitute the said Thomas Bancroft a preacher at any place within and throughout the aforesaid county of Lancaster aforesaid, and especially in those churches and chapels within the said county where for preaching it may not be otherwise provided, with all and singular the rights, members, and appurtenances thereto belonging." Following this is the proviso for Mr. Bancroft subscribing to the oath of fealty to Church and King. The inability of Mr. Bancroft to attend in person at Chester to receive this appointment necessitated the selection of a Commissary, residing near Bolton, to administer the usual oaths to Mr. Bancroft. The gentleman on whom this duty was bestowed was the Rev. Henry Unsworth, M.A., of Bury. Accompanying the commission, which was dated the 15th May, 1807, were instructions to Mr. Unsworth as to how he was to proceed in the matter. From the instructions it appears that Mr. Bancroft was first to subscribe to the articles and the declaration of conformity to the Liturgy, and to read and subscribe the same declaration, and afterwards to take the following oaths:—

Of Allegiance.—I, Thomas Bancroft, do promise and swear that I will be faithful, and bear true allegiance to his Majesty King George the Third.—SO HELP ME GOD.

Of Supremacy.—I, Thomas Bancroft, do swear that I do, from my heart, abhor, detest, and abjure as impious and heretical that damnable doctrine and position that Princes excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, or any authority of the See of Rome, may be deposed or murdered by their subjects or any other whatsoever; and I do declare that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state, or potentate hath, or ought to have, any jurisdiction, power, superiority, pre-eminence, or authority, ecclesiastical or spiritual, within this realm.—SO HELP ME GOD.

Against Simony.—I, Thomas Bancroft, do swear that I have made no simonical payment, contract, or promise, directly or indirectly, by myself or by any other to my knowledge or with my consent, to any person or persons whatsoever, for or concerning the procuring and obtaining one of the four Preachers' places founded by the King's Most Excellent Majesty in the county of Lancaster, nor will at any time hereafter perform or satisfy any such kind of payment, contract, or promise, made by any other without my knowledge or consent.—SO HELP ME GOD.

Of Canonical Obedience.—I, Thomas Bancroft, do swear that I will pay true and Canonical Obedience to Henry William, Lord Bishop of Chester, and his Successors, in all things lawful and honest.—SO HELP ME GOD.

As proved by the Rev. Henry Unsworth's report to the Bishop, Mr. Bancroft duly fulfilled in all respects what was required of him on the 20th May, in the same year, whereupon, on the following day, the official certificate of his elevation was granted. This is now preserved in the Bolton Free Library.

Mr. Bancroft held many other important public appointments. He was a feoffee of the Chetham Charities, and of several schools and public charities throughout the Diocese, a trustee for Great Bolton under the Act of Parliament 32 George III., c. 71, and in 1794 he was elected a Governor of Bury Grammar School.

About the middle of the present century there was in existence a miniature portrait of Vicar Bancroft, taken on ivory, set in pearls, which faithfully represented him in canonicals. Another vignette photograph, from which the foregoing portrait is taken, may be seen in the Bolton Free Library. In personal appearance Mr. Bancroft was a short and rather stout man, with an acute but pleasing expression of countenance, and of a florid complexion. He had blue eyes, and invariably used hair powder. As the effects of the attack during his elopement, he was troubled with lameness, which affliction he bore till his death.

The last days of this excellent man were clouded by loss of mental faculties. In 1809, he was seized with paralysis when in the pulpit. According to the record on his monument "he bore the infirmity of a palsy without a murmur." Mr. Bancroft is said to have suffered a previous attack to that above stated whilst preaching at Haselwall, in Wirral, being supported from the church by Mr. Townsend, of Gayton Hall. Mr. Bancroft had issue two daughters, who received the first rudiments of learning, and sufficient Latin to conduct grammatical instruction, from their father, and they afterwards attended Tredlove's school, in Chester. Elizabeth, the eldest, was married by licence on the 19th October, 1812, to John Bradshaw Isherwood, B.A., of Marple Hall, Cheshire (Sheriff of that county in 1815). She died on the 1st April, 1856, aged 67. Anne, the younger daughter of the Vicar, on the 11th October, 1820, became the wife of George Wolstenholme, a surgeon, of Bolton, and great grandson of the Rev. Henry Wolstenholme, Rector of Liverpool 1753-1772. Mrs. Wolstenholme died on the 17th August, 1878, aged 88.*

A mural tablet was placed in the old Parish Church (near to the place of interment) to the memory of Vicar Bancroft, by his daughter, Mrs. J. B. Isherwood, Marple Hall, Cheshire.† The monument was again fixed in a position similar to that

* Two sons and as many daughters were the issue of Mr. and Mrs. Wolstenholme.

† See page 171 (Chap. xix.).

occupied in the Old Church. It now hangs over the vestry door in the organ chamber, by the side of that of Vicar Whitehead, whilst the grave stone is situated in the churchyard, against the east wall of the Church.

As author and poet Mr. Bancroft was to the fore. In the year 1777, when only 21 years of age, and the year previous to his removal to the college at Oxford, he sent out his first printed work to the public; though this was by no means his first composition either in prose or poetry. As has already been shown, at the early age of 16 he wrote a learned essay on "Classical Study," and at very frequent intervals other productions emanated from his never-idle pen. None of these, however, are known to have been published. No fewer than eleven of his works were printed between 1777 and 1803, several of which went through more than one edition; besides these three others were put into type and published for the Vicar's son-in-law—John Bradshaw Isherwood, Esq. Many others that were ready for the printer remain in manuscript.* The following are condensed titles to Mr. Bancroft's printed works:—"The Poetical Correspondent: or Sketches of Manchester in Verse," (1777); "*Prolusiones Poeticæ:* or a selection of exercises in Greek, Latin, and English, partly original and partly translated" (1788); "*Ars Rhetorica:* or a Compendium of Rhetoric;" "Sermon on the Martyrdom of King Charles I.;" "Sermon preached before the Mayor and Corporation of Chester, May 29, 1791;" "Sermon preached at Chester and Manchester" (on various occasions in 1792 and 1793); "A Serious Address to the Town and Parish of Bolton-le-Moors" (1794); "The Chain of Duty" (1797 and 1800); "Sermon to the Bolton Volunteers on being disbanded in 1802;" "Occasional Hymns, with Remarks" (1802); "Sermon on day of National Fast" (1803); "The Englishman Armed against the Infidel Spirit of the Times" (1833); "The Credibility of Christianity Vindicated" (1834); "Three Dissertations, on Divinity, Atonement, and Personalty" (1835).

The unpublished works† of Mr. Bancroft known to exist in manuscript are:—(1) Sermon preached at the ordination of the Bishop of Chester, in the Cathedral Church, Sept. 28th, 1783. (2) Sermon preached at Warrington at the annual meeting of

* See Scholes's *Bolton Bibliography* (1886), pp. 91, 141, 164, 165, for comprehensive notes on Mr. Bancroft's writings.

† The Author is indebted to Mr. J. K. Waite, the Librarian, Bolton Library, for this list.

the clergy, for the Society for the Relief of Destitute Widows and Orphans of the Clergy of the Diocese. (3) Sermon preached at the consecration of St. George's Church, Bolton, 1796. (4) Sermon preached at the Collegiate Church, Manchester, on the first visitation of the Bishop of Chester (Dr. Majendie), July 20th, 1804. (5) Sermon preached in the Collegiate Church, Manchester, for the benefit of the Lying-in Hospital. (6) Sermon preached at the Collegiate Church, Manchester, on Whit Monday, 7th June, 1802, at the annual gathering of the Church of England Scholars of the Sunday Schools. (7) Sermon preached in Bolton Parish Church on the renewal of the war, and the re-delivery of the colours to the Bolton Volunteer Infantry, 1803. (8) An Essay on the Study of History. (9) Poems, Poetical Translations from Horace, Voltaire's Henriade, &c., Greek Epigrams, Translations from the Greek, &c., about the years 1773 and 1774; and several interesting letters.

JOHN BROCKLEBANK.—1811.

Vicar Bancroft's successor was the Rev. John Brocklebank, B.D., who had laboured in Bristol with acceptance. The Vicariate was not notable for anything special in Church matters. Mr. Brocklebank was content to carry out his work quietly and unostentatiously, indeed he had no great opportunity of demonstrating his love for the Church and the town—men's thoughts were distracted for the most part with disturbance at home and alarm from abroad. Bolton was in a distressful condition owing to what are known as the Luddite riots, caused, in a great measure, by the stagnation of trade, and by movements towards political equality. The people were uneasy, too, because of the headway being made by steam power—they were terribly afraid that what limited amount of work remained to them would disappear by the supplanting of hand labour in weaving and spinning. This fear and these actions resulted in, among other outrages, the firing of Messrs. Wroe & Duncough's cotton mill at Westhoughton, 24th April, 1812. For the wilful destruction of the factory three men and a boy (aged 14 years) were hanged at Lancaster. During a period of many months afterwards, when violence had wholly ceased, bitter and resentful feelings were prevalent, as evinced by writing and speeches.* Still, if the cause of the

* See Chapter xliii. of this work.

Church was not advanced greatly in Vicar Brocklebank's term in Bolton, charity was not dead; there was sufficient of it to warrant the opening of the Bolton Dispensary in Nelson Square, 7th June, 1814, and when at last Napoleon's star was dimmed for ever upon the field of Waterloo, 18th June, 1815, and the folk in Bolton rejoiced in common, a new era was opened that was auspicious in every sense.

One local religious branch Mr. Brocklebank succeeded in establishing, namely, that connected with the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The first meeting for laying the foundation of this branch was held Friday, 6th January, 1815, and the Vicar presided. On the 23rd September, 1817, after holding the benefice of Bolton for six years and six months, Mr. Brocklebank resigned his cure and proceeded to take charge of the spiritual oversight of Faversham, in Cambridgeshire. Before the end of the year the reverend gentleman had added to his charge the adjoining parish of Melbourne, and had become chaplain to the Bishop of Ely.

That Vicar Brocklebank's efforts were appreciated by his parishioners in Bolton is betokened by the fact that a short time after he left the town he was presented by them with an elegant silver tea service. A salver bore the inscription:—"This, with other pieces of plate, is presented by the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Bolton-le-Moors, to the Rev. John Brocklebank, B.D., late Vicar of the parish, whose purity of life, justly tempered zeal, and conciliating manners, have afforded the best comment on the truths he inculcated, and whose fidelity in the discharge of his pastoral duties will ever be remembered with gratitude and esteem."

CHAPTER XXIX.

VICARS OF BOLTON.—(V).

James Slade's Youth—Ordination and Curacies—Prebendary—Collated Vicar of Bolton—Heroic Efforts—Church and Sunday School Labours—Punctuality—Charity—Public Affairs—Strife and Peace—Local Progress—Church Extension—Presentation of Portrait—Self-Abnegation—See of Manchester Founded—Failing Health—Retirement—The Slade Window—Address to Canon Slade: Response—Last Days—Death and Burial: Demonstrations of Affection—Henry Powell—Resignation—Tokens of Esteem—Further Church Extension—James Augustus Atkinson.

JAMES SLADE.—1817.

A MARGINAL note in the Bolton Parish Church Register, opposite to the baptisms for September, 1817, and in the late Canon Slade's handwriting, reads as follows:—"The Rev. John Brocklebank resigned the Vicarage of Bolton on the 23rd of September, and the Rev. James Slade was collated to it on the same day by Geo. H. Law, D.D., Bishop of Chester."

Here is the record of the opening of a chapter as unique as it is interesting, instructive and beneficial—a chapter whose story cannot adequately be written—one the afterglow of which still remains, notwithstanding that thirty years have elapsed

since the last scene in it was enacted. It is a chapter, too, whose effects will not be obliterated in years to come. To-day, "Canon Slade" are household words in Bolton; they will be pronounced in tones of endearment, of love, until the last of those who knew him personally have passed away into the Great Silent Land. When they have gone the name of James Slade will be breathed with nothing save respect; tradition will preserve that name unsullied to the very end of time. Long will it be said of Canon Slade by those who had not the honour of his acquaintance:—

"I never knew him—but I knew his worth
By the frank tones in which men spoke his praise
Whilst he was living on this perilous earth;
And now I know it by the tearful gaze
The same men give his picture—for the sod
Hath hidden all of him not gone to God."

Born at Daventry, Somerset, 2nd May, 1783, James Slade, —Vicar of Bolton for upwards of 39 years—was educated by his father, Rev. James Slade, Vicar of the Parish, and afterwards at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. It was at this college that he graduated in his 22nd year, and came out as ninth in the list of Wranglers. He was successively Fellow and Tutor of Emmanuel. Having been ordained, James Slade entered upon his first Curacy in Wellingham, Cambridgeshire, and on the 28th May, 1812, he was joined in wedlock to Augusta, daughter of his Rector, Rev. George Henry Law, D.D., the divine who afterwards, as Bishop of Chester, collated him to the Vicarage of Bolton. Dr. Law was son of Edmund Law, D.D., Bishop of Carlisle, father of the first Lord Ellenborough. After 10 years of married life the wife of Canon Slade was removed by death, the immediate cause being inflammation of the lungs. Her father, the Bishop of Chester, was among those at the funeral in his Cathedral. On 17th May, 1824, Canon Slade was married to Mary, third daughter of Edward Bolling, Esq., the ceremony taking place in the Bolton Parish Church, Rev. Henry Richardson, of Lectureship notoriety, officiating. It will be noticed that the month of May saw the birth of James Slade, his first marriage, the death of his first wife, and his second wedding; strange to relate, the second Mrs. Slade died in the month of May—8th May, 1878. She expired at Southport, in her 86th

year. Mr. Slade had issue, Augusta, by the first marriage, and she became the wife of Rev. Thomas ffoster Chamberlain, honorary Canon of Manchester.

On the 21st December, 1816, Rev. James Slade was called to the Prebendal Stall in Chester Cathedral by his father-in-law, Bishop Law, in succession to Rev. Richard Godley, resigned. Mr. Slade was then Examining Chaplain to Dr. Law and Rector of Faversham. In the following year, Mr. Slade changed livings with Rev. John Brocklebank, Vicar of Bolton, and on the 23rd September was collated by Dr. Law, as recorded. Five weeks subsequent to his institution to the Vicarage of Bolton, and on the death of Rev. R. Lathom, M.A., Mr. Slade was appointed a King's Preacher for the county; he was the last of the Vicars of Bolton who held the distinguished office. Another honour was conferred upon Canon Slade which gave great satisfaction, that of Residentiary Canon of Chester Cathedral. He was also given the living of West Kirby, near Birkenhead.

In office at Bolton, Vicar Slade quickly displayed his matchless qualities as a pastor. He made the acquaintance, not of his congregation alone, by house to house visitation, but he became acquainted with the people on every side, seeking out those who did not attend places of worship—endeavouring to persuade those in danger of falling to attend his ministrations. He bade all to Church in love, and by personal example as well as by precept he led the way towards the better life. Always busy, his figure was known everywhere; humble himself, he was not ashamed to recognise the poorest of his congregation wherever and whenever he met them. He guided them indeed by a silken thread, and the majority were only too eager to follow. In School, likewise, Canon Slade was respected and beloved. Under him, in fact, school was more than a name. When he came to Bolton, the Parish Church Sunday School was held in the Old Grammar School, the entrance being from the Churchyard, and boys and girls assembled in the narrow compass of the lower room. He changed this by relegating the girls to the upper storey. But so determined was Mr. Slade to increase the numbers in attendance, and so devoted was he, that the Grammar School building would not accommodate all who sought admission, and the establishment off Churchgate, known

as Marsden's Endowed School, was brought into requisition. Still Vicar Slade laboured on, and still the number of scholars increased, until warehouse premises in the vicinity were rented for Sunday School purposes. These divisions of forces could not continue, and on the 19th day of November, 1819, the large school building still standing opposite the old Vicarage and the Parish Churchyard was opened, and the whole of the scholars were gathered into it. The growth in the number of scholars went steadily on until, from having the smallest Sunday School in the town, Canon Slade had the largest—110 teachers and nearly 1400 scholars. And it was personal example still. Punctually to the second, Canon Slade was at the door of his School every Sunday morning—save when he was in residence at Chester—and in the afternoon he was the most punctual again. Morning saw him with the girls; afternoon with the lads, kindly as well as punctual, and encouraging in the truest sense.

Punctuality was a marked characteristic of the Canon in all his business, ecclesiastical and otherwise. He might have registered a vow never to be late, so particular was he in attendance at hours fixed upon for meetings and work. He could be depended on, too, for punctuality in pecuniary matters; he was nearly always the first, for instance, in the payment of subscriptions to charitable and other objects. This leads one to remark that Canon Slade's liberality was, in a sense, unbounded. By many it has been thought he gave the balance of his income from year to year in helping the poor and in supporting deserving objects. Whether this is a correct estimate or not, the asseveration may safely be made that Canon Slade was ever ready with open purse. The poor had in him a rare friend, the Church a notable giver, the Bolton Dispensary a true and loyal aid. For this public institution he was willing at all times to attend meetings as chairman and subscriber, as well as to visit the sick and maimed in hospital and outside. In the month of May, 1829, a bazaar, promoted largely by him, was opened in his Sunday Schools, for the benefit of the Dispensary, and no less than £722 10s. was realised.

Canon Slade did a great deal towards furthering the cause of temperance and sobriety in the town; he granted the use of his Schools for the purposes of establishing the first local Church

Temperance Society, and acted in the capacity of president afterwards. He had special classes, also, for those who could not be gathered into Church and School, gave lectures and addresses from time to time on popular topics, and never refused to countenance anything meant for the uplifting of the people at large. Further, he was an active trustee of the Bolton Bank for Savings, and bore some part in the actual government of the town, he being elected a trustee of Great Bolton in the year 1820.

The deepest interest was manifested by Vicar Slade for a long period in public affairs generally. It would have been forced upon him in the early years of his ministry, whatever his inclinations, for they were days when strife and peaceful progress alternated. Chartism was rampant, and unsettled public and private matters, and the day of Peterloo and its consequences in Bolton had been experienced ere he had been in the town three years; there was serious distress again, accompanied by threatenings of street outrages and wrecking of property in the third decade of the century and great sufferings in the fourth decade likewise, especially among the weavers of Bolton, leading to a Committee of Inquiry being appointed in 1834. It was on August 16th, 1839, that the Chartists marched in a body to the Parish Church, and were guilty of the most reprehensible conduct there, shocking Canon Slade and his peaceable congregation by their behaviour. Fearful distress once more, and the plug drawing riots in 1842, panic and famine in 1846 and 1847; amid all these things and the like Canon Slade was busy and helpful. At the same time he could not fail to rejoice at the progress made in spite of dangers and difficulties—at the lighting of the streets by gas for the first time, at the securing of good water supplies, the opening-out of public thoroughfares, the commencement of the local railway system in 1828, the enfranchisement of the borough in February, 1832, and the incorporation of Bolton, October, 1838. Educational establishments also were multiplied during his Vicariate, the opening of the Church Institute, 30th July, 1855, being not the least important. In the Grammar School (of which he was a Governor), and the Mechanics' Institution, Canon Slade evinced special interest.

Moreover, under Vicar Slade, Church extension was really extraordinary in degree, taking into account the character

of what was transpiring generally in the town. Holy Trinity (the corner-stone of which the Vicar laid), Emmanuel, Christ, and St. John's Churches were consecrated during Canon Slade's Vicariate, as were St. Stephen and All Martyrs', and St. Paul's, Halliwell, in districts to be included in the Bolton area in later years, while a Church was erected in each of the following townships, also in the ecclesiastical Parish of Bolton: Farnworth, Horwich, Halliwell (St. Peter's), Walmsley (Turton), Harwood, Turton (re-built), Astley Bridge, Belmont, Great Lever, Ringley, and Breightmet*—a grand record this, one bespeaking labour, if joy, for Canon Slade. When he had been Vicar of Bolton 22 years, a full-length portrait of Canon Slade—one admirably executed by Mr. Geo. Patten, A.R.A,, and from which engravings were taken in the succeeding year—was presented to him on behalf of the subscribers, parishioners, and friends, but prior to this he might have been the recipient of a very handsome service of plate subscribed to by his several admirers. Canon Slade would not listen, however, to the suggestion when he was consulted as to the articles to be included in the service. Plate was a luxury with which he could well dispense, he said. Money (£500) had been subscribed for him, but he would suggest that it be diverted towards the erection of another Church in the town, and that the edifice take the name of the College of which he had been Fellow and Tutor at Cambridge, namely, Emmanuel. The idea was adopted, and this was the beginning of the movement which led to the building of Emmanuel Church, Cannon Street. Vicar Slade hastened it by subscribing most handsomely. The corner-stone of the edifice was formally laid by him on Wednesday, the 22nd November, 1837, in the presence of a large assembly, an inscription under the stone recording the event.

When the new See of Manchester was formed† it was current that the Rev. Canon Slade would be elevated to the Episcopal Bench, as Bishop of the new diocese. The press discussed the matter somewhat vigorously. The *English Churchman*, in speaking of the fitness of Canon Slade for the position of diocesan, said: "Mr. Slade has written a series of notes on the Epistles, which are very useful to the Divinity students. He is

*See Chapter lvii., devoted to townships around Bolton.
†10th August, 1847.

also noted for the management of his schools, which we are told are models of order and good instruction. We certainly want practical men on the bench; and as we believe that Mr. Slade, though supposed to be connected with the 'Evangelical' party, is far from being extreme in his views, we think that he is one of the best of that party that could be named."

The *Chester Courant*, in supplementing the above remarks, said:—"Mr. Slade is not of any religious party, as the term is generally used, but he is an earnest and consistent Churchman; a devout Christian; an able minister of the New Testament, rightly dividing the word of truth to those among whom he labours in his holy vocation; a workman that needeth not be ashamed."

At length there were not wanting tokens that the good Canon Slade was failing in health, and grieved and saddened though his congregation and the public of Bolton at large were to know it, and much as they were prepared to sacrifice of his presence and counsel if only he would remain Vicar, they recognised, when he declared his final decision to sever his official connection with Bolton, that the step was the most likely and advisable under the circumstances. He would place his resignation in the hands of the Bishop of the diocese, he said, and retire for comparative rest to his parish of West Kirby, the living of which he still held. The actual date of resignation was 29th December, 1856.*

On 1st December, 1856, a public meeting of parishioners and others, called by the Churchwardens, Mr. John Mawdsley and Mr. Wm. Green, was held in the Parish Church School "to consider and determine on the propriety of presenting an address to the Rev. the Vicar on his retirement from the parish, and of adopting and carrying out such other measures in reference to that event as may be then thought desirable." Mr. John Mawdsley occupied the chair. Mr. T. L. Rushton pro-

* The following is a copy of the Bishop's acceptance of Canon Slade's resignation, as copied in the Bolton Parish Church Register:—"We, James Prince, by Divine permission Lord Bishop of Manchester, do hereby certify that James Slade, Clerk, Vicar of the Vicarage and Parish Church of Bolton-le-Moors, in the County of Lancaster and Diocese of Manchester, did on the twenty-ninth day of December last resign and give up his said Vicarage and Parish Church of Bolton-le-Moors aforesaid. And that we did, on the third day of January in the present year, accept such resignation, and did declare the said Vicarage and Parish Church void. Given under our hand and seal this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.—J. P. MANCHESTER."

posed, Mr. James Knowles (the Mayor) seconded, and it was resolved, "That this meeting, having received the announcement that the Rev. James Slade has resigned the office of Vicar of this parish, which he has held for upwards of 39 years, desire to record their testimony that he has faithfully discharged the duties of his sacred trust, and that the most grateful acknowledgments of his parishioners are due to him;" Mr. John Hick proposed, and Mr. C. Briggs seconded, a resolution that an address on vellum, expressive of the esteem of the inhabitants of the borough, be presented to Mr. Slade after signature—a resolution that was agreed to unanimously. Mr. P. R. Arrowsmith then moved, and Mr. Henry Bridson seconded, "That in the opinion of this meeting a stained glass window should be placed in the north side of the chancel of the Parish Church, to commemorate the Vicar's long-continued pastoral charge of the parish;" and this motion was carried, as was one proposed by Mr. Thos. G. Horridge, seconded by Mr. J. B. Holden, that a subscription list be opened to the congregation and general public; and another, having Mr. Thos. Cross as mover and Mr. John Stones as seconder, appointing a Committee to carry out the objects in view. The meeting was of the heartiest character, the highest praises being sounded in regard to Canon Slade, while regrets were freely expressed because of his enforced retirement. A strong and thoroughly representative Committee was elected to carry out the resolutions of the meeting, and in turn a Sub-Committee was appointed to conduct details. Mr. T. L. Rushton was Chairman. The ultimate outcome of the proceedings was that £336 2s. 10½d. had been collected in the course of six months, of which about £15 was expended on the illuminated address to Mr. Slade, and £283 10s. 9d. on the erection of the stained glass window. The latter was placed in the north wall of the chancel of the Parish Church, as agreed upon in the month of June, 1858. It has been described in a preceding chapter.* The address on vellum, in book form, and signed by some 1200 persons, was beautifully illuminated.

The address was presented privately to Canon Slade at West Kirby Rectory. He was then unable to bear the fatigue of a public presentation. In reply, Canon Slade wrote† :—

* Chapter xix.

† The original letter may be seen in the Bolton Public Library, bound with the minutes of proceedings of the Committee appointed to carry out the Slade memorial window and address schemes.

West Kirby Rectory, February 6th, 1857.

To my late Parishioners and dear Friends of the town and neighbourhood of Bolton-le-Moors.

No words can express either the deep obligation which I owe to you, or the sentiments which I really entertain for the very beautiful, comprehensive, and commendatory address, so full of partiality and kindness, with which you have been pleased to honour me. It humbles me to think how far I have fallen short of the tribute you have paid; and it affords me another proof, in addition to the many I have heretofore received, of your extreme readiness to appreciate my earnest efforts for the well-being of those whom God entrusted to me. I did indeed always feel the charge to be weighty, and one that needed much benevolent and effectual aid from my parishioners; such aid I uniformly found, and to this I must ascribe, under the Divine blessing, a large measure of my acceptableness and success. Nor shall I ever cease to remember, while life and consciousness remain, the courteous treatment and friendly converse of all my neighbours, even of those who differed from me most widely on many topics of vital interest and moment. I say, as in truth and duty bound, that I cannot call to mind any instance of personal disrespect from any such Dissentient; and I am thankful to hear that Dissentients have found none in me. Each has an undoubted right to his own religious and political opinion, maintaining it in the spirit of peace; and it is monstrous that Christians should hate and quarrel because they differ in conscience or in creed. . . . . In returning your farewell, let me assure you that the separation is but bodily; that I shall unceasingly cherish a lively concern in the welfare of a parish and neighbourhood with which I have been so entirely identified through the larger portion of my life as to feel that my connection with it has become almost a part of my very being. You will ever be in my remembrance and my prayers.

As you rightly observe (though some have chosen to cast a doubt upon it) I have resisted solicitations to leave you, for I thought that as God called me to such a sphere of labour I ought to remain there till I was as clearly called away; and I trust, as you earnestly pray, that my health may be sufficiently repaired to render me abundantly equal to the discharge of less onerous duties and less continuous exertions, both of body and mind.

I devoutly implore the Great Head of the Church, who has been so merciful to me, to pour His blessing upon my successor, and send him to you in the fulness of grace and truth. Doubtless he is come among you with the Bible in his hand, with the Church in his eye, and with the Saviour in his heart, and I hope that he will fully entitle himself to your cordial and entire co-operation.

I remain evermore,

Your obliged and affectionate and faithful Friend,

J. SLADE.

In the Autumn of the year 1858, intelligence came to Bolton that Canon Slade was suffering from a very serious illness. From this attack he recovered to a great extent, but time would not bring him back strength, and from West Kirby he went on a visit to the house of his daughter at Rufford. As already stated, she was the wife of Canon Chamberlain. The relief afforded was not great. Acting on advice, Canon Slade came to Bolton, quite an invalid, 13th April, 1860, and went on to the house of his brother, Mr. William Slade, cotton spinner, at Crompton Fold, Breightmet—a place the Canon frequently went to for change of scene whilst Vicar of Bolton. It was evident, however, that Canon Slade's days were numbered, and on 15th May, 1860, he breathed his last calmly and peacefully, from natural decay, and in his 78th year.

A new vault was prepared for the mortal remains of the Canon in the south-west corner of Breightmet Churchyard, and Monday, the 21st day of May, 1860, was one ever to be re-

membered by those who were witnesses of the interment. Muffled bells in the towers of the Bolton Parish Church, St. George's, and Deane Church were rung, shops in the town were closed, and long before the hour of noon, the time fixed for the burial, crowds of mourners were to be seen walking from Bolton to Breightmet, until there were along the route to Crompton Fold, and in and around the churchyard, between 4000 and 5000 persons. At the interment there were—in addition to relatives of the deceased—the Bishops of Chester and Manchester, the latter of whom officiated; many clergy from near and afar (among them Canon Durnford, afterwards Bishop of Chichester, one of the pall bearers with five other clergymen), church officers and members of the Parish Church congregation, teachers and scholars of the Sunday School, and representatives of public bodies. Upon the coffin was the simple inscription :— "James Slade, died 15th May, 1860, aged 77 years." At the close of the service, which was touching in the extreme, the grandchild of the dear departed was christened in Breightmet Church by Dr. Prince Lee, by the name of James Slade ffoster. Arrived at manhood James Slade ffoster Chamberlain was ordained to the curacy of Westhoughton, and afterwards became Vicar of Kearsley Moor, both in the Rural Deanery of Bolton.

Canon Slade was an author of repute, among his published writings being "Annotations on the Epistles," seven vols. of Parochial Sermons, "Readings on St. John's Gospel," "Plain Remarks on the Four Gospels," "Lent Lectures on Discipline and Doctrine and on the Seven Churches of Asia," and "Family Prayers."

HENRY POWELL.—1857.

Canon Powell was another of the heads of the Church in Bolton whose Vicariate was prolonged, honourable, and blessed in results. He was Vicar for 30 years—his first sermon in the Bolton Parish Church, on appointment, was delivered 4th January, 1857, the induction took place on the seventh day of the following month, and the rev. gentleman preached for the last time in the Parish Church as Vicar of Bolton and Rural Dean, 30th January, 1887.

Henry Powell was born at Reading, Berks. After being fully trained and educated at the Church Missionary College,

London, and receiving the orders of priest and deacon in 1836 and 1837 respectively, he proceeded as a missionary to Ceylon, where he laboured earnestly and faithfully for seven years, at the close of which period he returned to England and entered upon the duties of perpetual curate of Bispham, near Blackpool, and acted for some time as travelling secretary of the Church Missionary Society. In harness at Bolton he took especial delight in addressing the working-classes. One address in particular by him at the Temperance Hall, before a large audience, and entitled "A Few Words to Workingmen" was applauded to the echo, striking home as it did to the minds and hearts of his hearers because of the sound common sense and the spirit of sympathy running through it. In the pulpit of the Parish Church the new Vicar soon gained the praises of his congregation, and when through his efforts, in no small degree, the sacred edifice was lighted with gas for the first time in the opening day of February, 1857, and evening service could be joined in, the assemblies were larger than ever. House to house visits were commenced by Mr. Powell, classes were held, a sustained interest was observable in the Sunday Schools; in short, the lines laid down by Canon Slade were followed largely, to the lively satisfaction of those who were jealous for the name and work of the Parish Church and Schools, and for the spiritual welfare of the town. The Schools were enlarged in 1860, the average attendance increased somewhat, great as it was under Canon Slade, and everything calculated to promote unity and the elevation of those connected with the schools is in vogue to this day. Not on his coming alone, but to the close of his career in Bolton, Vicar Powell kept a close watch upon his Sunday and Day Schools, attending the former regularly and visiting and examining the latter frequently. The story of his labours in close association with the Parish Church, or rather Churches, will show unfailing devotion and a determination to make the services as attractive as possible. What he did towards the removal of the old edifice and the building of the new structure may be inferred to some extent from the recital in previous chapters. Vicar Powell was elected to an Honorary Canonry in Manchester Cathedral, void by the resignation of Canon Thicknesse, Vicar of Deane, 15th Feb., 1868. Mr. Powell had then held offices for some years in succession to Canon Slade, including that of Trustee of the Bolton Grammar School, President of the

Church Institute, Trustee of the Bolton Bank for Savings, and Vice-President of the local Infirmary and Dispensary. At the time of his departure from Bolton Canon Powell was also President of the Bolton branches of the Bible Society, the Church Missionary Society, the Church of England Temperance Society, and of the Bolton Poor Protection Society, a Trustee of the Popplewell Charity and of the Blair Convalescent Hospital, and for 22 years he was Chaplain to the Local Rifle Volunteers—a recital that speaks volumes for the extra amount of work thrown upon the Vicar. It should be mentioned, too, that during the prevalence of the cotton panic, 1862-5, he worked industriously for the alleviation of the woeful distress in the borough. In addition to helping on the general fund raised in behalf of the starving operatives, he was at the head of a movement which brought great relief to the poor among his own parishioners.

On the expiry of the term of the first School Board in Bolton, in November, 1873, Canon Powell yielded to pressure and allowed himself to be nominated for a seat on the second Board. Such was the confidence placed in him that he was returned at the head of the poll by 13,055 votes; Canon Carter (Roman Catholic) coming next with 9079 votes. The Denominationalists being in a majority, Canon Powell was elected Chairman. At the end of three years, a compromise was effected by which the members of the Board retained their seats, and Canon Powell was again chosen to preside over the deliberations. At the triennial election on 1st November, 1879, the Denominationalists were not as successful as heretofore. Canon Powell was seventh on the list of elected candidates, and a Wesleyan (Mr. J. R. Barlow) was chosen Chairman. Many heated and prolonged debates ensued, and ultimately Canon Powell severed his connection with the Board. His labours were still heavy, and advancing years were beginning to affect him. He deemed it advisable, therefore, to accept, in the month of December, 1886, the living of Eaglescliffe, in the diocese of Durham, vacant by the death of Canon Hull, his father-in-law (Canon Powell married Miss Hull as his second wife in the month of March, 1878.) The living was set down at £1049 per annum, with a population of 729 souls.

The announcement of Canon Powell's resignation as Vicar of Bolton was received, naturally, with feelings of regret by

numberless persons in Bolton, and who, to testify their appreciation of his services, subscribed cheerfully towards tangible tokens of those feelings. A Joint Committee was formed, also, for carrying into effect a proposal to raise a memorial in the Parish Church—one to the late Dr. Fraser (a close friend of Canon Powell), and the retiring Vicar. The memorial was raised, and has been referred to in the chapter having special reference to the New Parish Church. The Canon was the recipient, moreover, of not a few votes of thanks from public bodies, and he carried with him to Eaglescliffe the best wishes of all who knew him.

During his Vicariate Canon Powell saw the erection of the following churches within the present limits of the borough, namely :—St. Peter's Parish (re-built) ; St. Paul's, Moor Lane ; St. Mark's, St. James', St. Luke's, St. Thomas', St. Matthew's, St. Bartholomew's, St. George the Martyr, All Souls', and The Saviour's. The new churches built outside the borough and within the limits of the Bolton Rural Deanery include St. John's, Westhoughton ; St. James', New Bury ; St. Matthew's, Little Lever (re-built) ; St. Bartholomew's, Westhoughton (re-built) ; St. Stephen's, Kersley ; St. Maxentius, Bradshaw (re-built) ; St, Paul's, Little Hulton ; St. Thomas', Farnworth ; St. Peter's, Farnworth ; St. Augustine's, Tonge.

JAMES AUGUSTUS ATKINSON.—1887.

The present Vicar of Bolton is Rev. Canon Atkinson, M.A., D.C.L. (son of the late Jas. A. Atkinson, of the Bengal Medical Service). Born in 1831, he was educated at Eton, and at Exeter College, Oxford, where he obtained an open scholarship. Mr. Atkinson was 1st cl. Mod., 1852, 3rd cl. Lit. Hum., 1853. He recited the Latin Ode at the installation of the Earl of Derby as Chancellor. Mr. Atkinson's degree of B.A. dates from 1853, M.A. 1856, and D.C.L. (University of the South) 1876. He was made deacon in 1854 and priest 1855, and he has been Curate of St. Mary's, Dover (1854-5), and of Kirtlington (Oxon), 1856-7 ; and Incumbent of Hollinwood, near Oldham (1858-61). In recognition of his work at Hollinwood, Mr. Atkinson was elected Rector of St. John's, Longsight, by the Trustees in 1861. Here he laboured conscientiously, and with marked results.

Church, schools, and parish benefited greatly by his efforts. Bishop Fraser appointed him Rural Dean of Ardwick in 1880, and Hon. Canon of Manchester in 1884. He took an active part in the establishment of the Charitable Institution of Manchester, and was hon. secretary to the Governors from its foundation; was hon. chaplain of the Lock Hospital, was one of the promoters of St. Mary's Home, and the founder of the Mission Refuge.

On the resignation of Canon Powell in 1887, Bishop Moorhouse (the present Diocesan) conferred upon Canon Atkinson the Vicarage of Bolton. On his retirement from Longsight the Canon received testimonials of appreciation and respect from the parishioners, the schools, district visitors, the temperance society, the ruri-decanal delegates, and the Sunday School Union. As Vicar of Bolton, Canon Atkinson is Chairman of the Infirmary and of the Church Institute. He has been appointed by the Magistrates a Governor of the Grammar School, and has been elected Chairman. The Canon is President of the Bolton Bank for Savings, the Workshops for the Blind, the Ladies' Charity, the Bolton Clothing Society, and the local branch of the Church Missionary Society; he is likewise Chairman of the Bolton Branch of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, and a Feoffee of Chetham Hospital, and is Acting Chaplain of the 9th L.A.V. Canon Atkinson has edited the "Shah Namah of Firdausi" (translated by his father), "Southey's Life of Wesley," and "The Soul's Hour Glass," by Drexelius. Several sermons preached by the Canon on special occasions have been printed by request.

In the year 1855 Canon Atkinson married the Honourable Charlotte Adelaide, daughter of the fifth Viscount Chetwynd, and has issue two sons and a daughter. The eldest son, Christie Chetwynd, is senior Curate of Ashton-on-Mersey, and the youngest, Walter Chetwynd, is senior Curate of Bury Parish Church.

CHAPTER XXX.

BOLTON LECTURESHIP, ESTATES, AND LECTURERS. (I.)

Rev. James Gosnell Bequeaths an Estate—Conditions of Lectureship—Mr. Gosnell's Ministry: His Conscientious Scruples—Singular Story—Charitable Bequests—Robert Parke's Ejectment—Vicar and Lecturer—Return as to Parish Affairs—Profits from the Lectureship Estate Withheld—Vicar Harpur's Fondness for Law—Lecturer Smith's Labours—Valuable Augmentation—Samuel Lever Lecturer: An Unheeded Appeal.

IN the year 1622, the Rev. James Gosnell, Curate at the Bolton Parish Church, bequeathed an estate, which he had shortly before purchased in Balderstone, to certain trustees and their heirs and assigns in trust, in part to pay for a preacher, other than the Vicar, to preach in the Parish Church.

The will of Mr. Gosnell is dated 9th January, 1622 (nearly four months prior to his death), and has been extracted by Canon Raines,* who, however, classes him among the Vicars of Bolton. Mr. Gosnell was, in all probability, only a curate or preacher, the Rev. Ellis Saunderson being Vicar from 1597 to 1625. In summarising the will Canon Raines

* *Notitia Cestriensis*, published by the Chetham Society, vol. xix., pp. 9-10.

says:—He (Mr. Gosnell) describes himself as, "by the gracious goodness of God, a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, having exercised my said ministerie above forty years in Bolton in the Moors to God's glory and the comfort of my conscience, being now somewhat diseased in body;" and further on he adds, "touching my ministry, I doe give all the People of God to understand that I have delivered noe doctrine but such as in my conscience I took to bee agreeable to God's most sacred Word, and I protest before God and men that I am verily persuaded the Religion now established in this Kingdome to be, concerning the substance of the Articles of the doctrine of Faith and Sacraments, the only true Religion of God by which men shall be saved, and for the matter of formality I protest as before God that the maine cause of my not yielding is and hath beene for that I think the things urged to have beene in themselves simply unlawful and inconvenient . . . . my funerals shall be only a Drinking, not above the expenses of five marks for such as accompany my Corps to the burial." The testator gives legacies to his brother, John Gosnell, his sister Judith Powell; and to Alice Dickinson alias Rogerson, and to John Nuttall her brother, and Dorothy and Jane Nuttall her sisters, children of Ashton Nuttall, who are the principal legatees; his watch to his "steed grandson," Francis Nuttall, and a two and twenty shillings piece to Mary his wife; to Mr. John Langley, "my beste gowne;" to Mr. James Langley, his brother, "my second gowne and grogram suite;" to Mr. Saunderson, Vicar of Bolton, "my p'cher's gowne lyned with lambe, and my foure books of Bellarmyne's works;" to "Mr. Horrocks my stuff cloke, and to Mrs. Rathbande my mourning cloke." Mr. Gosnell mentions having lately purchased lands from Richard Fogg, of Darcy Lever, situate in Balderston, which he conveys to his "well-beloved James Lever, of Darcy Lever, Richard Fogg, John Bradshaw, and Ellis Crompton, Gents., of the same, James Crompton of Breightmett, Gent., and John Norris of Bolton, draper, and their heirs and assigns," in trust, to divide the rents into six parts, and to pay annually four of the same to a Preacher, distinct from the Vicar of Bolton, to preach in the Parish Church upon every Lord's Day and Monday, towards his yearly stipend of £30; and the first part of the said six parts he gave to the Poor of Bolton, Darcy Lever, and Little Lever;

and the other sixth part he gave to the Master and Usher for the time being of Bolton School. He appointed for his executors his "Christian friends Thomas Howarth of Rocliffe, and George Smith of Aynsworth."

Before proceeding with the account of the Lectureship, for which the testator provides, it will be *apropos* to the subject if a brief reference is made to the "manner of man" he was.

James Gosnell was an undoubted Puritan of the early school. He was appointed as assistant minister at Bolton about the time of Alexander Smythe's acceptance of the Vicariate—1582. These were troublous times, as we have seen, and it must have been no easy task for the young preacher to ingratiate himself into the affections of his hearers. He is credited with corresponding with the venerable Mr. Anthony Gilby, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in Leicestershire. According to a note in Baker's MS. collection in the British Museum;* two letters of his have been seen. They bear no dates, though it is supposed they were written about the year 1584. One of these letters was written from Bolton, and in it Mr. Gosnell says:—"I have no news to write out of this county. Here are great store of Jesuits, seminaries, masses, and plenty of whoredom. The first sort our sheriff courseth pretty well.† Other good news is, that the Bishop of Canterbury has not yet, God be thanked, stung us with his articles, which in the South parts have so great power, that, by report, they have quenched the Lord's lights nearly to the number of two hundred."‡

Like other clergy of his day, Mr. Gosnell refused to conform to the Liturgy and the ceremonies of the Church, whereupon he was ordered to appear before Dr. Vaughan, Bishop of Chester (along with Vicar Saunderson and other leaders of Nonconformity), at Aldford, on the 13th October, 1604, to receive a severe admonition. This appears to have had little effect. Mr. Gosnell again showed his defection to the ecclesiastical laws of the realm by absenting himself from the Holy Communion at

* Vol. 32, pp. 436-7

† The Sheriff who "coursed" the Papists was either Sir Richard Holland, of Denton, or Sir Edmund Trafford, of Trafford. The articles referred to were Archbishop Whitgift's three articles, to which, in many dioceses, the subscription of all ministers was required.—Baines's *Lancashire*, edited by Jas. Croston, 1889, vol. iii., p. 174.

‡ Sir F. Knollys wrote on the 8th June, 1584, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, requesting that he would permit zealous Non-conformists to preach against Popery.—*Lansdowne MSS.*, Num. 43, art. 9.

Easter. For this abstention in 1620 he was presented to the Bishop, along with a number of others. Submission was subsequently tendered by the offenders, and was accepted on certain conditions. A copy of the original record* is here supplied —

BOLTON-LE MOORS, July 28, 162c.—*Offic diu mer con.* John Bradshaw, Esq.; James Gosnell, Clerk; James Leaver, Clerk; Ellis Crompton, Jun., and John Crompton, his son; Walter Poole, and 24 other psns.:—For not co'icatinge at Easter last, or not receivinge the same kneelinge. Att wch. daie and place appeared personally Peter Unsworth and Ellis Crompton the younger both for themselves and the reste, who, submitting to the Judge his decree in this behalfe, interposed and injoyned to receive the holy and blessed Co'ion reuently kneelinge, in the p'sh Churche of Boulton, att the Vicar's hands there or his assistante, uppon Easter Sundaie or Good Frydaie next, and in the interim to be at the sd. Reu'end Fath. his pleasure for Conference.

"Then follows an order in Latin that the parties shall bring a certificate under the hands of the Vicar and the Wardens immedyately after the Feast aforesaid.—*Bridgeman's Liber Correcton, Ao.* 1620, *&c.*"

The Rev. Henry Newcome, M.A., in his Autobiography,† refers to a story which had been told to him respecting an apparitor at Blackley Chapel, near Manchester, during the time of the Rev. Thomas Paget's ministry there — 1600-1631. The tale goes that the apparitor on one occasion went into the Chapel among the communicants, took all their names, "and bragged that he would present them all at the Visitation;" whilst "the next Lord's Day he resolved to go to Bolton to entrap Mr. Gosnell and his communicants in like manner." On the Sabbath morning in question, when he was getting up, something, he thought, "gave him a dust on the neck; he fell immediately sick and died within two hours. Some godly men came in when he was dead, as neighbours, and providentially saw the paper and burned it, and so the mischief by him was prevented," and likewise the intended persecution of Mr. Gosnell in this remarkable manner was frustrated by Divine intervention.

Amongst the list of subscriptions from the clergy in 1620 towards the government or taxation of the country, "Mr. Gosnell's" name appears with a contribution of £2, and he is styled "p'cher of Bolton;" Mr. Saunderson only gives 6s. 8d., and is entered as "curat of Bolton." The term "curat," at this period, was synonymous with "Vicar" of the present day. This is practically corroborated by Mr. Gosnell in his will, when he makes a bequest to "Mr. Saunderson, Vicar of Bolton." In 1622

*Canon Raines's MSS., vol 22, p. 314.
†Published by the Chetham Society, vol. xxvi., p. 87.

(the year of his death) "Mr. Gosnell, Lect. at Bolton," is credited with a contribution of £5 towards the recovery of the Palatinate, whereas, "Mr. Saunderson, Vicar de Bolton," entered his name for 13s. 4d. Mr. Gosnell, was, therefore, not only "a Puritan minister of considerable eminence,* but he must have been a wealthy man. A circumstance that should not be discarded is also inferred by the manner of entering Mr. Gosnell's calling in the second list of contributions. He is there styled "Lecturer." This suggests that Mr. Gosnell did not absolutely "found" the Lectureship by his bequest, but rather that such an office already existed in Bolton, but which he, by his gift, "separated" from the Vicariate. "James Goznell, preacher," was one of the executors of the will of Christopher Longworth, of Longworth, in 1608. In his will, dated 11th December, 1608, and proved on the 22nd of the following June, John Lightboune expressed a desire that his "bodie be burried in the churche porche of the p'rishe churche of Boulton in the Moores, he bequeathed to Mr. Gosnell, the preacher, duringe his preaching at Boulton, the yearly sume of ffoure shillings, and the same payment to continue for the space of ten years to every hyred preacher att Boulton successively." James Forde, yeoman, of Bolton, by his will, dated 27th December, 1587, bequeathed "two shillings a yeare for seven yeares, out of his house and tenement in Boulton, to Mr. Goosnell, if he so longe continue preacher at Boulton." In the year 1611, Alice Longworth, of Longworth, made her "trustie and well-beloved friend, James Gosnell, preacher of the Word of God at Bolton," one of the executors of her will, for which she bequeathed to him "the sume of Xs." In 1616, James Bradshaw, of Darcy Lever, died, and in his last will he thus remembers Mr. Gosnell:—"To Mr. Jas. Osnell [? Gosnell], preacher at Boulton, the sum of £3 6s. 8d." One other bequest, of the many that could be cited, will perhaps suffice to show the esteem in which Mr. Gosnell was held by those who sat and listened to his preaching. This was made by Robert Lever, of Darcy Lever, on the 13th May, 1621, shortly before his death. The will was proved at Chester, 2nd July, 1621. The extract is particularly interesting to the subject under consideration. But whether the terms of the will were ever carried into effect no record remains to show. It reads:—"I give unto my executors

* Brooks' *Lives of Puritans*, vol. iii., p. 509.

£20, to be paid yearly by 20s. a yeare towards Mr. Gosnell, his wages, and if God call him away, then to what preacher shall be placed in his place, so long and until £20 shall be paid. And whereas I did promise to give a hundred marks towards buying of a stipend of ye continuance of wages to a preacher at Boulton, if there be a stipend bought within four yeares after my departure, then I give towards the preacher thereof a hundred marks, and then the payment of the rever'con of ye said £20 to cease—provided that the stipend be £30 by year at least, but if noe such payment be bought within 4 years next after my departure, then the hundred marks not to be paid. . . . . Also, I give unto Mr. Gosnell four pounds to buy him a cloake." The same testator appointed Mr. Gosnell, along with other gentlemen, to bestow his bequest of £20 upon the poor of "Boulton, Edgworth, and the two Leavers, Harwood, and Turton," whom he "desired to take pains" therein.

The benefactor to the Lectureship was buried inside the Church, as appears by the following burial entry in the Parish Register :—"1622.—James Gosnell, preacher of God's word at Boulton, *intra ecclesiam*, 7 Maye." Mr. Gosnell's wife—Alice—predeceased him by six years, being buried inside the Church on the 9th of May, 1616.

In Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis* it is recorded, "An.[no] 1623, one Dickinson admitted ad Lecturum in Eccles, de Bolton-in-le-Moors.—*B.*[*ishop*] *Bridg.*[*man's*] *Subsc.*[*ription*] *B.*[*ook*], f. 21." It may be understood, then, that almost immediately after Mr. Gosnell's death the first Lecturer, separate from the Vicar, was appointed. The income for this preacher was small indeed. The Institution books at the Chester Diocesan Registry are silent as to the appointment of Mr. Dickinson—or, rather, the record of date of his engagement has not yet transpired. His Christian name has also been in doubt, though from circumstantial surroundings it is supposed to be "Richard," who died in 1625, and was buried on the 7th March of that year.

The next recorded Lecturer was John Harpur, who resided in Halliwell. There is reason to believe that for some time prior to his death in 1657 he kept the accounts of the township of Halliwell. The registers of Bolton Parish Church contain records of baptisms of "Jane Harper, daughter of John

de Halliwoe, 6 July, 1635;" "John Harper, sonne of Mr. John, preacher, de deane p'ish, 8 January, 1636;" "Thomas Harper, sonne of John de Halliwell, Lecturer de Boltonn, March 17, 1637-8;" "Robert Harper, s. of John Harpur, lecturer de Halliwo, 5 Sep., 1641;" "William Harper, s. of Jo., Minister de Halliwell, born 22, bap. 16 January, 1648-9." Evidently conforming to the views of Oliver Cromwell, Mr. Harpur was allowed to continue his ministry in Bolton under Vicar Gregg, and in about 1644 he occupied the Vicariate (See more of John Harpur, in the Chapter on the Vicars of Bolton).

A survey of Church property, etc., was made in 1650, and was presented at a Parliamentary Inquisition, held at Manchester, on the 19th June of that year. Amongst numerous other items it reports that there were then some "lands given by Mr. Goosenargh (? Gosnell), late minister of Boulton, to the said towne towards the mainteynce of a constant lecturer at Boulton, at the yearely rent of twenty-five shillings or thereabouts, vpon certen condi'cons wherevpon a sute now is dependinge in the ho'ble Court of Duchy Chamber, at Westmr."*

In all probability the above refers to the renewal of Mr. Gosnell's trust by the Court of Chancery, a suit which was then pending. An old book is in existence amongst the Bolton Church papers, which commences with the year 1659, and is headed:—"Here ffolloweth in this Booke A true and just Account what moneys hath beene Receiued by James Bradshawe, Richard Meadowcrofte, Robert Lever, John Andrewes, James Crompton, and John Crompton, or any of them, nominated ffeoffees of Mr. Gosnell's Land in Balderstone, given by him for and towards the mainetaininge of a Lecturer at Boulton, Darcy Lever, and Little Lever, and for the vse of the free schoole at Boulton, and how disposed of since their Intermedlinge therew'th."

The book gives the proportions of the charitable bequest, which were then the same as arranged by Mr. Gosnell,—*i.e.*, four parts to the Lecturer, and a part each to the Poor, and the Grammar School Master and Usher. Many curious entries have been made, but a few only are appended:—

Re'd. ffebruarij 2d, 1659, of Mr. John Hayhurst, by the hands of Mr. John Okey, £12 00 00.

* The Lansdown MSS., in the British Museum, *circa* 1654, speaking of Church Livings, say; There is a gift for a lecture in Boulton, now in suite.

Paide, Januarij 26th, 1660, to Mr. John Andrewes, for so much paide for the counterpart of the Lease made to Mr. John Hayhurst, vj*s.*, and for Expences at the sealinge of the said Lease, xvj*d.*

Paid Mr. John Bradshawe for so much paid to Schowcroft Towneley, for what hee expended in goinge into Blackburne hundred, to p'vent sequestracon of the Rent, 2s. 4d., and for the draweinge of Rent for the Re-conveyinge of the Land accordinge to Mr. Gosnell's will, xviij*s.* iiij*d.*

These payments make a total of £1 8s. 0d., which left a balance of £10 12s. 0d. to be divided as set forth in the will. The division was :—

		£	s.	d.
To the Lecturer ffoure parts	...	07	01	04
To the Schoole one p'te	...	01	15	04
To the Poore one p'te ...	...	01	15	04

The first item of £7 1s. 4d. was sub-divided between Mr. Goodwin (£5 6s. 8d.), and Mr. Parke (£1 14s. 8d.); and the last account yielded 23s. 4d. for the poor of Great Bolton, Tonge, Haulgh, and Breightmet; 5s. for the poor of Little Bolton, and 3s. 6d. each township for the poor of Little Lever and Darcy Lever.

In 1645 Robert Parke is found filling the office of Lecturer, and if he did not receive the full benefit of the Gosnell bequest, the fact of acting as assistant to Vicar John Harpur claimed for him the title of Lecturer. The Lecturer's Account Book for 1661 shows that Mr. Parke received two payments, the first on the 10th June, £2 13s. 4d., and the second on the 2nd December, £4 2s. 1d., the balance of £12, being divided equally between the school and the poor. In 1662 Mr. Parke received the sum of £7 12s. 0d. This was his last payment from the Lectureship estates; on account of his non-compliance with the Act of Uniformity he was this year ejected, along with Vicar Goodwin, from the ministry at Bolton Church.

The living of Bolton, as well as the Lectureship, was filled in a phœnix-like manner. On the very day of the ejectment of Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Parke—August 24th—Robert Harpur was acknowledged by the authorities as Vicar; and notwithstanding the decided terms of Mr. Gosnell's will reciting that the office of preacher should be distinct from that of Vicar, Mr. Robt. Harpur was granted a faculty by the Bishop of Chester to execute the duties of Lecturer, and to receive therefor the accustomed stipend. A copy of the original Faculty is preserved in Latin at the Diocesan Registry, Chester (Register Book 3, page 22), and is thus translated :—

"Faculty granted to Robert Harpur, clerk, Vicar of Bolton, to execute the duty of Lecturer on the usual days for the lecture there.

"George [Hall] by Divine permission Bishop of Chester, to his very dear in Christ Robert Harpur, clerk, Master of Arts, Vicar of Bolton in le Moores, in the County of Lancaster, and of our Diocese of Chester, greeting in the Lord. By these presents we do grant and bestow on you, upon whose fidelity, probity of life, and habits, and sincerity of religion we do exceedingly trust, license, power and authority to execute the duty and office of Lecturer for lectures in the Parish Church of Bolton aforesaid, on the usual days, and to have and to receive the annual stipend due and accustomed to be paid by reason of the said lectures, to continue, at our pleasure and until you shall otherwise have orders from us. And, nevertheless, we do admonish you that you diligently expound the Holy Scriptures purely and sincerely; and that you discuss them with simplicity and prudent purpose, and do not stir up or spread abroad contentions in your sermons touching the things now constituted, nor do you cause alteration or change whatsoever in the doctrine or ceremonits besides that which his royal Majesty made by public authority. Also what shall be done by you is to be testified by the subscription of your own hand. In witness whereof we have caused our episcopal seal to be put to these presents. Dated on the 24th day of the month of August, in the year of our Lord, 1662, and in the first of our consecration.

"GEO: CESTRIEN."

The early manner of appointment is referred to in *Baines's History of Lancashire*, 1836, vol. iii., p. 66, where he says that "one of the curates of the Parish Church is called the Lecturer, and is appointed by the ratepayers;" it is also here recorded that the Lecturer not only officiated in the Church, but before the Act of Uniformity was passed and put into force, he preached at the Market Cross, situated near the junction of Churchgate, Bradshawgate, and Windy Bank (or, as now called, Bank-street).

In the year 1665 (August 8th) a return of the Parish affairs was made by the Rev. Robert Harpur and the Churchwarden of Bolton, to George, Lord Bishop of Chester, at the episcopal visitation held at Manchester, through his chancellor —Dr. Wainwright. The document is particularly interesting, and certainly by far the most elaborate of its kind found amongst the Parish papers from all available sources.* It will, however, only be necessary at this point to extract therefrom the material relevant to the subject in hand.

In stating that no "terrier" of the living was known to exist, the writing infers that there was "intelligence" that some pensions or profits existed which in reality belonged to the Vicar, but which was "detained and with-held." It then recites certain clauses in Mr. Gosnell's will, and mentions his gift of £8 per annum towards the maintenance of a Lecturer, at the same time "engaging the inhabitants to make it vp the sume of thirtie pounds p. annu." Proceeding, the return says: "The moneyes hath beene formerly payed, till August 24, 1662

* The original is preserved at the Diocesan Registry, Chester.

—Sometymes to a Lecturer distinct from the vicar; sometymes to a vicar being the Lecturer also. Howbeit, Mr. Robert Harpur, our p'sent vicar, was appoynted Lecturer by the Right Reverend ffather in God, George, Lord Byshop of Chester, and hath either by a Proxie, or most co'monly himself, supplyed the place since August 24, 1662, aforesaid, being the time o'r former Lecturer silenced himself, yet hath hee not received one penny of the 30li p. annu. w'ch should be payd, nor of the eight pounds due were there no addition made by the Inhabitants, for above 3 yeeres last past. The money detained and withheld is in the hands of the ffeofeese, in trust for the time being, whose names are, Mr. James Bradshaw, clerke; Mr. Robert Leaver, and Mr. John Crompton, of Darcey Leaver; Mr. John Andrewes, of Little Leaver; Mr. Richard Meadowcrofte, and Mr. James Crompton, of Breightmett, all within the Parish of Boulton."

During these uneven times the profits from the Lectureship estate were, as above stated, withheld for three years, and allowed to accumulate to a total sum of £23 19s. 4d. From this it may be surmised that the Bishop's right of appointment to the office was questioned by the trustees and ratepayers, who showed the weight of their legal power by refusing to pay the Lecturer's income to the Vicar. Proceedings were taken, however, by the Vicar for the recovery of salary, and this litigation was pending about three years. The account book records "Paide March 5th, 1665, to Mr. Robte Harpur for w'ch I had an acquittance dated ffeb: 2d., 1665, for his preachinge the Lecture sermons three yeares then last past, the sume of £23 19 00.—Robt Lever." In the absence of the official decision, these circumstances infer that the Vicar's claim did not hold good, but by way of compromise his three years' fulfilment of the Lectureship was rewarded with the usual income, with the understanding that a separate Lecturer was to be appointed forthwith.

On this account for the four years succeeding—1666-1669—the sum of £71 6s. 0d. was paid to a Lecturer other than the Vicar, after paying £8 16s. 6d. for "mainetayneing of two suits, one against Mr. Harpur, who claimed that p'te of moneys as Vicar that pertained to the Lecturer; and another for defendinge of the tythes of Balderston against Mrs. Mariana

ffleetwood." The Church Vestry Book for July 16th, 1672, refers to these disputes, when by act of the Vestry meeting it was agreed that £8 17s. 10d. (which was a balance in the hands of the late churchwardens) be paid "within one moneth vnto Mr. James Bradshawe and Robte Lever for and towards the advance of the lands given by Mr. Gosnell, at the suite of Mr. Harpur, and Mrs. Mariana ffleetwood, according as was formerly agreed;" also "that the sume of two pounds seaven shillings and twopence shall be paid by Joseph Moxon, the p'sent churchwarden, to the above-named James Bradshawe and Robte Lever, out of the taxes now made, at or before Michaelmas next, provided this present allowance shall be no p'sident to the parish for the future."

In 1673 the Rev. John Lever was Vicar, and in all probability acted as Lecturer *pro tem.* until the 26th August, 1680, when, according to the Bishop of Chester's Institution Book* John Smith was appointed to the stipendiary Lectureship of Bolton.

The Rev. Oliver Heywood, in his private Register,† has made the entry: "Cozen Ester Heywood, marr. by Mr. Smith, Lect. at Bolton," and has re-entered in his Northowram or Coley Register:† "Esther Heywood and James Lomax, of Brekmitt, Jan. 21, 1680."‡ These show that Mr. Smith was in full harness as Lecturer at the time stated, also that the legal battle between the Vicar and Trustees, *re* Bolton Lectureship, was decided in favour of the original scheme. However, one good result of the litigation was the reconstruction of the ffeoffees, and on the 25th October, 1680, six new names were added to the two old lists, for the better execution of the trust placed in them by Mr. Gosnell. This body now comprised eight gentlemen, namely:—James Bradshawe and Robert Lever, of Darcy Lever; John Andrewes, of Little Lever; Thomas Boardman and Thomas Marsden, of Bolton; James Crompton, of Breightmet; John Crompton, of Hacking, in Darcy Lever; and Edward Richardson, of Tonge.

It was whilst fulfilling the duties of Lecturer that Mr. Smith§ wrote a work on *The Patriarchall Sabbath*, as appears by

* At the Diocesan Registry, Chester. The facts of the Institution were not obtained by the Bishop until 1686.

† Transcribed and edited by Mr. J. Horsfall Turner, 1881.

‡ Does not appear in the Bolton Parish Register.

§ A chapter is devoted to the life of Mr. John Smith, the Lecturer, in *Bolton Bibliography and Jottings of Book Lore with Notes on Local Authors and Printers*, by Jas. C. Scholes, 1886, p. 30.

the diary of another eminent Nonconformist minister—The Rev. Adam Martindale.

The following acknowledgment of Mr. Smith appears in the Lecturer's Account Book:—

1, May, 1685.—Whereas an accompt is mayd this day w'th Mr. John Smith, lecturer at Bolton, concerninge the profitts arisinge from Mr. Gosnal's gift to the Lecturer at Bolton, which accompt 4li. 7s. 8d., is due to mee as a balance for 5 years endinge at Midsummer next, and for that the feoffees are pleased to accomodate mee w'th so much as to make the ballance £10, I promis I will not demand any money from the sd. lands vntill the money so lent be reimbursed to the feoffees out of the profitts of the sd. lands. In witness hereof I have putt my hand, the day and yeer above written.—JOHN SMITH.

The names of three witnesses are also attached to the writing.

Lecturer Smith, after leaving Bolton, became Incumbent of Deanhead Chapel, in Scammoden, Huddersfield, where he was resident in 1689. His death is recorded in the following entry in the Parish Church Burial Register of his district:—"Mr. John Smith, curate of Scammonden, May 19th, 1699." From a statement in Oliver Heywood's Northowram Register, we learn that Mr. Smith died at the ripe age of 82, After Mr. Smith left Bolton another Lecturer was not appointed for some time. It is presumed that the Vicar—Rev. John Lever—performed the duties appertaining to that office.

A valuable addition to the income of the Lecturer was made in the meantime by William Hulme. Indeed it is acknowledged to be by far the most wealthy of the estates. Bishop Gastrell, in his *Notitia Cestriensis*, referring to this, says:—"One Mr. Holm gave 20*l* p[er] an[num] to a Lecturer to preach [on the] Sund[ay] afternoon and Fryd[ay] before [the] Sacr[ment]." This gift was effected by certain indentures of lease and re-lease, bearing date the 7th and 8th August, 1691, by the terms of which the benefactor (who was the founder of the Hulmeian Exhibitions at Brasenose College, Oxford*) "covenanted with William, Earl of Derby, Sir John Bridgeman, Bart., Thomas Lever, Esq., and Roger Thropp, gent., at that time the joint manorial owners, to improve eight acres of land, part of Bolton Moor, and legally settle the same so that the rents might be

* William Hulme was born in 1631. He belonged to an old family resident some centuries before at Hulme Hall, Reddish, near Stockport. In the latter part of his life Hulme resided at Kersley, near Bolton, but he was buried in Manchester Cathedral, as were also his wife and son. The property he left was chiefly situate in Manchester. The founder died in 1691, and his widow nine years later, when her interest in the property having ceased the amount available for the exhibitioners at Brasenose College, Oxford (to whom the benefit of the bequest accrued), began to increase.—*The Times*, 21st August, 1879.

employed for the maintenance of a Lecturer or Preaching Minister of the Gospel, conformable to the Church of England; and duly licensed, in the Parish Church of Bolton, upon Sundays and such Festivals and Fast Days or other times as the said William Hulme should direct. The Lords of the Manor conveyed the common land on this condition."

Canon Raines observes* respecting this part of the Lectureship endowment: "The Charity Commissioners do not notice Mr. Hulme in connection with the Bolton Lectureship, and the information afforded to the Commissioners in this respect appears to have been very imperfect, as the rental of the eight acres of land forms the most important portion of the Lecturer's income." Since the above remarks were written—1849—the subject has received better attention at the hands of the Commissioners.

On the 14th July, 1696, the Rev. Henry Woods, B.A., was officially appointed to the Lectureship, though his name as "Lector of Bolton" appears in the Bolton Parish Register on the 23rd of the previous February. Under date February 5th, 1696, in the Lecturer's Account Book appears the record: "Pd. to Henery Woods the Lecturer at ye Parish Church of Bolton in Lay Moores, in Com. Lanc. being ye first devidend of the Cleare Rentes Ariseinge out of the Land att Balderston for two years Last past ending second instant Accordinge to the setlement thereof, £12 10s. 8½d." This is duly acknowledged in proper terms:—"I say rec'd from John Andrew and Edward Richardson the sume of £12 10s. 8½d., by mee HEN: WOODS." To which transaction "P: Haddon" was witness. Mr. Wood's discharge of his calling at Bolton was short indeed. The Parish Register of Burials thus records:—"1697. Mr. Henry Woods, Lector of Bolton, died 21, buried 23 June." He was interred on the south side of the Communion Table in the Parish Church.

In the Bishops' Account Book at the Registry in Chester is the following entry of Mr. Woods' institution to the Bolton Lectureship, which is accompanied by his own signature:—"Ego Henricus Woods, A: B: admittendus in Publicum Lectorem in Ecclesiâ Parochiali de Bolton super la Moore, in Com: Lanc: et Dioc: Cestra: hiue Declarationi libenter et ex amino subscribo decimo quarto die Julij Annogz Domini, 1696.—HEN: WOODS."

* *Notitia Cestriensis*, Chetham Society's Publications, Vol. xix., p. 11.

What length of time elapsed before the appointment of Mr. Woods' successor is not recorded. The Account Book simply states that on the 28th October, 1697, there was paid "to ye Lecturer, Scoole, and Poore the sum of £13 9s. 0d." Nor does any "Preacher's" name appear until September 29th, 1705, when the sum of £7 13s. 4d. was "Pd to Mr. Samuel Lever, ye Lecturr. of Boulton Church." In the interim, a bequest to the Lectureship funds was made by an old Parish Clerk named Ralph Allen (who at the time of his death resided in Little Bolton) by his will dated April 11th, 1699, wherein he says: "I give unto the Church the profits and benefits of my lease last purchased of Mr. Marsden, towards the maintenance of a Lecture during the term of the lease, immediately after the death of Margery my wife." Further particulars respecting this are not to be obtained.

Neither does it appear how long the Rev. Samuel Lever held the Lectureship, no entries being made in the parish accounts between 1705 and 1709, when the office had again changed hands. Mr. Lever's connection with Bolton warrants, however, a little extension. He was the son of the Rev. John Lever, Vicar of Bolton from 1673 to 1691, and was born in this town two years after his father's settlement in the Vicariate, and was baptised at the Parish Church on the 13th May, 1675. In all probability Mr. Samuel Lever's elementary education was received at the Bolton Grammar School, after which he graduated at Brasenose College, Oxford, where in the year 1699—at the age of 24 years he took his Master of Arts degree.* At the time of his father's death Mr. Samuel Lever would not be more than sixteen and a half years old, and his college life perhaps not seriously thought about.

From the time he was vested with the order of priesthood Samuel Lever earnestly devoted himself to his calling; upon his own statement we learn that he "had never been idle." His

* On the 30th January, 1699, he lent £50 on mortgage of certain property in Edgworth, viz., a messuage, tenement, lands, &c., in Broadhead, containing four and a half acres, late in the occupation of Henry Bury; a messuage, tenement, barn, and lands of twelve acres, called the Whitehill, in Broadhead, in the occupation of John Duerden, of Wolfenden Booth; and a messuage and tenement, &c., with ten acres of land in Broadhead, in the tenures of James Duckworth, yeoman, and widow, mother-in-law of the said James. The parties to the second part of the mortgage were John Fyldes, of St. Bennet ffink, London, hosier, and Anne, his wife, and their son John, their son James, of the parish of St. Olave, Southwark, co. Surrey, marriner; and also their son Edward, of Fulham, co. Middlesex, labourer.—*Lancashire and Cheshire Historical and Genealogical Notes*, edited by Mr. Josiah Rose, 1881. Vol. 2, p. 126.

lot was a hard one, for Mr. Lever could truly say that he "never had a place that was worth £40 per ann." Unlike his income, his family was large, he being blessed with fourteen children; had it not been for a small private property his income would have been inadequate to the family needs.

In 1703 Samuel Lever was living in Bolton, and on the 8th June of that year he was joined in wedlock to Ann Lomax, —the ceremony being solemnised in the Bolton Parish Church. From this time it would appear that he assisted in the clerical duties at the Parish Church, if he was not really the chosen Lecturer. Certain it is that the rev. gentleman was so acknowledged in 1705. Children were born to him in the town between Dec. 1704, and Dec. 1708. In 1709 the Lecturer's income from the Gosnell estate (£7 13s. 4d.) was paid to Mr. Peter Haddon, the Vicar,—a fact implying that Mr. Samuel Lever had resigned his charge.

The *locale* of Mr. Lever is now traced to Hindley, in the Parish of Wigan, by an entry in the Bolton Registers of the burial of one of his sons, viz. :—"Samuel, son of ye Revd. Samuel and Anne Lever, of Hindley, 22 February, 1709."

In the locality of Wigan Mr. Lever spent the remainder of his life, but not without a determined effort to change not only his place of residence but the amount of his income. His mind was again turned towards the town of his birth, the Vicariate of which he had not ceased to look upon as his rightful heritage. As already shown, the Rev. Samuel Lever's father was succeeded in the Bolton living in 1691 by Vicar Haddon—one he most diligently held for thirty years.

This brings us to the year 1721, when Vicar Haddon died. The vacancy had not continued three weeks when Mr. Samuel Lever addressed a letter to Bishop Gastrell (Chester) asking for appointment to the position once occupied by his late father; at the same time he assigned a special reason why his Lordship should confer it upon him. The letter is written in a bold and fearless tone, which leads one to think that the exigencies of his case prompted its inditement, and also that his pathetic appeal was worthy of special consideration. The letter, which is dated "Hindley, April 28th, 1721," reads:—

My father, who died in 1691, was Mr. Haddon's immediate predecessor, in whose time the Glebe was not given to the Vicar, as since it has been, yet, my Lord, he expended above £800 in

building ye Vicarage House, and besides was at the charge of an unfortunate Law Suit with a part of the Parish for the Recovery of Tythes, wherein a corrupt Jury gave a verdict against him, w'ch as many yet can remember, ashtonisht ye whole Court besides. When my Father dyed none of his children were capable of succeeding him, otherwise, as I have been told, the late Sir John Bridgeman wod. have had regard to ym. As for myself, (may it please your Lordship,) I took my Master of Arts Degree at Brasenose in Oxford in the year 1699, and ever since have been employ'd in the Ministry: and though I have never been idle I can truly say I never had a place that was worth £40 per ann. I have had 14 children, 10 of which wth. their Mother (I thank God) are living.

The application was not successful; and on the 14th of the September following, Mr. Thos. Morrall was instituted Vicar of Bolton. During the time of Mr. Samuel Lever's residence in Bolton he became owner of several pews in different parts of the Church, from which he drew rents, or perhaps more correctly speaking some messuages owned by him and for which he received rents had certain pews appurtenant to them. These pews were transferred by faculties in 1733 to other gentlemen at the request of Mr. Lever. In 1735 he was serving as one of the feoffees of the Bolton Grammar School, but beyond this his connection with the town seems to have been almost entirely severed. His wife was buried at Bolton Church on the 16th January, 1754, and two years after—on August 27th—Mr. Lever's mortal remains also were conveyed from Hindley to be laid besides those of his wife.

CHAPTER XXXI.

BOLTON LECTURESHIP, ESTATES, AND LECTURERS. (II.)

Lecturer or Curate?—Rev. Thomas Whitehead—"Parson" Folds—Contributions for a Curate—Activity of "Parson" Folds—"Sorry" and his Master—Eccentricities—Lecturer and Vicar—Quaint Statement of Expenses—A Ministry of 65 Years—Henry Richardson—Distribution of the Lectureship Estate: Various Schemes: Final Conditions—Augmentation of Bolton Livings—Recent Lecturers.

HE Lectureship was filled by Vicar Haddon for about one year only, that is to say, until a proper appointment was made. This was in 1710, when "Mr. [Edmund] Howarth, Lecturer for Bolton," received £7 13s. 4d.—the income due to his office from Mr. Gosnell's gift. This state of affairs continued until 1719, save that the Lecturer's name is invariably misspelt "Howard," after the first two entries. On the 18th July, 1712, a visitation was held at Manchester by William, Bishop of Chester, at which the requisite answers of the Bolton Parish Churchwardens were received. The document places on record the presence of this minister thus:—"Our Curate at Bolton, Mr. Howarth, is resident, & we believe licensed." It is not known whither Mr. Howarth removed.

There was again a vacancy, caused by Mr. Howarth's retirement, and though the money is properly accounted for, the name of the recipient is not given. Perhaps the Vicar again discharged the dual duties of Vicar and Lecturer. From 1723 to 1725, Mr. [Thomas] Whitacre received the annual sum of £7 13s. 4d., though his title does not appear.

After this the office seems to have been combined with the Curacy of the Church, thus:—"1726.—To the Curate at Bolton Church, £7 13s. 4d.;" "1728.—To Mr. Terrick, Curate there, £7 13s. 4d." The Rev. Richard Terrick regularly received the Lecturer's portion of the profit or dividend arising from the Gosnell property in Balderstone, but not in a single instance is he styled "Lecturer" in the Account Book; whilst "Curate" is frequently subjoined to his name. During his residence in Bolton Mr. Terrick became acquainted with a Mrs. Mary Crompton, whom he made his wife on the 12th December, 1732, and had issue. The title of "Lecturer" is appended to his name in the Registers. Until 1741 he continued his duties, and was succeeded in the latter part of that year by the Rev. Thomas Whitehead. His signature appears in the Church Vestry Book for three years, commencing 1732, where he styles himself as "Curate."

A note is given in the Account Book which reads:—"N.B.—The Lands in Balderstone, which were the gift of Mr. Gosnall, were in the year 1737 Let on a Lease for the lives of Thos. Leyland, Mary his wife, Ralph Leyland his son, at ye yearly rent of £19: 13: 6, and were there and then distinguished by the names of The Haveroaks or Haverhaugh, Leeming Croft, Breek Croft, Rings, one small parcell ground undivided, adjoining to Rings on the North side thereof, containing one rood 5 falls, clay flatts, clay flatt meadow, the whole containing 26a. 1r. 5p. N.B.—these to distinguish from other lands since purchased by the feoffees for Bolton School, and lett at the same time and for the like term to the same tenante for £8: 6: 6 per an:"

Until, and including May, 1748, Mr. Whitehead received payment from the Lectureship trustees, though in no instance is he entered as Lecturer. Notwithstanding this the following nomination is sufficient to prove that he was both Curate and Lecturer by appointment:—"To the right rev. the Lord Bishop

of Chester. I, Edward Whitehead, Vicar of Bolton, in the County of Lancaster, and in your Lordship's diocese of Chester, do hereby nominate and recommend Thomas Whitehead, A.M., of the University of Glasgow, to be Curate and Lecturer in my Parish Church of Bolton, and to receive for his maintenance the issues and profits of the said Curacy and Lectureship. Witness my hand and seal this 7th July, 1746.—E : WHITEHEAD, Vicar of Bolton."

On leaving Bolton the Rev. Thomas Whitehead is found serving a Curacy at Wigan, after which—on the 29th July, 1782—he is chosen by the Rev. Robert Lathom, Vicar of Deane, to succeed the Rev. John Chisnall to the Perpetual Curacy of Westhoughton, where he remained until his death in 1788.

The Rev. John Chisnall, B.A.,* followed Mr. Whitehead in the Lectureship, but not before he had served for about nine months the office of Deacon in Bolton Parish Church and Walmsley Chapel. He intimated his intention to offer himself for Priesthood to Vicar Whitehead, of Bolton, who along with the Rev. J. Wylde, Curate of Bradshaw, and the Rev. James Rothwell, Vicar of Deane, gave him letters testimonial to Samuel, Bishop of Chester, dated Nov. 25th, 1748. This writing describes Mr. Chisnall as "our well-beloved in Christ, Batchelor of Arts, curate of Walmesley and lecturer of the Parish Church of Bolton," and proceeds to say that "he hath behaved himself well and regularly, and duly executed the office of a deacon in the said Chapel and Church for three-quarters of a year, the time of his residence amongst us; nor has he maintained anything contrary to the doctrine of the Church of England; and further, yt we do in our conscience believe yt the said John Chisnall is a person fit to be admitted to yt sacred office for which he is petitioning." From circumstances which afterwards took place it may be understood that his petition was quite successful.

From December 3rd, 1748, to April 16th, 1753, Mr. Chisnall's name is written in the Lecturer's Account Book in settlement of his claim upon the Gosnell bequest. Whether he continued in office in Bolton is not here stated, but from another source we are led to believe that his duties did not terminate at

*He was ordained Deacon March 6th, 1747, and Priest December 18th, 1748, by the Bishop of Chester (*Visitation Returns*, 1778). He afterwards took the Master of Arts degree.

Bolton until the middle of the year 1755, when we next hear of him at Westhoughton, to which Incumbency (or Per: Cur:) he was preferred on the 18th June, 1755, by the Rev, Jas. Rothwell, Vicar of Deane, the patron. A singular coincidence is noticeable in this appointment, namely, that whilst Mr. Chisnall succeeded Mr. Thos. Whitehead to the Bolton Lectureship, the last-named gentleman followed Mr. Chisnall in the Incumbency of Westhoughton.

It has been argued that Mr. Chisnall died in 1755, and that it was another person of his name who served the Westhoughton living. This, however, was not the case, as is proved by a contemporary entry in the Bishop of Chester's Institution Book, which is thus transcribed:—"18 June, 1755.—John Chisnall, clerk, M.A., late of Bolton in the Moors, was licensed to the chapel of Westhoughton, in the Parish of Deane, and County of Lancaster, void by the death of Robert Harvey, clerk, the late Curate, at the nomination of James Rothwell, Vicar of Deane."

The successor of Mr. Chisnall to the Lectureship of Bolton was the Rev. James Folds (or Foulds), who was licensed to the Chapel of Walmsley, in the Parish of Bolton, on the 26th July, 1756, by the Bishop's Chancellor at Chester, vacant by the resignation of John Chisnall, clerk*, on the nomination of the patron —the Rev. Edward Whitehead, M.A., Vicar of Bolton. This date is not, however, the earliest at which Mr. Folds did duty in Bolton Parish Church, for the Registers record that so early as May 18th, 1755, he was officiating at a marriage. Therefore it may be taken that Mr. Folds commenced his labours in this town at the age of 27, having been born late in 1728, and baptised on the 3rd November that year at St. James's Church (or as then called, the Higher Chapel), Darwen. In course of events particularly associated with the town and parish of Bolton, Mr. Folds played an active part, and though of a somewhat eccentric nature—that is during the latter portion of his life—he was ever at his post as a minister of his Master, was a good citizen, and altogether a remarkable man.

He was the eldest of three sons of the Rev. John Folds, B.A., and Ann his wife. They had also three daughters. The Rev. John Folds was Curate of Darwen Higher Chapel for upwards

* The Bishop's Institution Book, Diocesan Registry, Chester.

of 52 years, terminating with February, 1772. This circumstance will perhaps account for the bent of his son James's thoughts and inclinations. The place of his education has not been positively ascertained, but Blackburn Grammar School has been suggested as the institution whence Mr. James Folds derived his early scholastic knowledge. Neither has the locality of the College been identified where he was prepared for the ministry. It is, however, sufficient to know that his election to the Bolton Lectureship immediately succeeded the removal of his predecessor to Westhoughton. In a manuscript book kept by Mr. Folds (who by the way was better known as "Parson Folds") of the pulpits he from time to time occupied, with the respective dates accompanying, we learn that so early as the evening of October 19th, 1755, he preached at Bolton; on April 11th, 1756, at Walmsley; on May 23rd, 1756, at Flixton; and at Bolton on October 17th, 1756, and so on, at intervals until December 11th, 1809, when he preached the funeral sermon of Mr. Adam Lomax, attorney and conveyancer, and grandfather to Adam Lomax Haworth, solicitor, who died at Lytham January 21st, 1872, aged 81. It has been computed that from the year 1757 to that of 1800, out of a total number of 6909 marriages solemnised in Bolton Church, no fewer than 3346 were performed by Parson Folds. This number included that of Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, to Mary Pimlott, on the 16th of February, 1780. At this juncture it is noteworthy that in after years a son of the inventor married a relative of Mr. Folds.*

In the Lecturer's Account Book for May 5th, 1760, Mr. Folds gives a receipt for the sum of £6 11s. 2d., "in full for Balderstone's last half year's rent," which he received from Mr. Brandwood. Of course it must not be accepted that this was the only source whence the Lecturer's stipend came. The Hulme bequest augmented the income to about £35 per annum, and in addition to this there were the proceeds of the Walmsley Curacy, which had been received by the Bolton Lecturer since the dual office was legalised. It is also on record that Parson Folds held the Vicariate of West Hythe, Kent, from about 1806 to 1817, whence a further income would arise. Mr. Folds was non-resident in the last-named Parish, neither would he keep a Curate

* *The Life of Samuel Crompton*, by Gilbert J. French, Esq., F.S.A., 1860, p. 59.

as technically understood; but the vicarial duties would devolve upon a reverend proxy, who in reality was Vicar.* In 1778, the Rev. Edward Whitehead, Vicar of Bolton, in his returns to the Diocesan, refers to Mr. Folds as being his assistant, who, he observes, had as an endowment (as Curate and Lecturer) of about £40 a year in rent; and further states that he officiated at Walmsley Chapel once a month, for which he received a yearly income of about £12. Mr. Folds had some property in the parish, which produced something like £100 a year. The income of the Lectureship was again augmented during Mr. Folds' lifetime by another bequest, as shown hereafter.

By indenture dated 2nd January, 1790, and made between James Taylor, of Sharples, yeoman, heir-at-law of William Hulme (the benefactor), and Lord Grey de Wilton, and seven other persons—after reciting so much of James Gosnell's will as related to the Lectureship, and likewise the indenture of 8th August, 1691, and that Mr. Hulme had improved the eight acres of land, but (dying very shortly afterwards) had not settled the same for the uses aforenamed, and that the lands were then vested in the said James Taylor—the said James Taylor now conveyed them to Lord Grey de Wilton and others, and their heirs and assigns for ever, upon trust to pay the rents to a licensed Lecturer in Bolton Church, conformable to the Church of England, to read prayers every morning in the week before every Sacrament day, with a lecture on the Friday in every such week, or upon every Lord's Day and Monday in the year, as mentioned in Mr. Gosnell's will, so that the two charitable donations might go together.†

Age began to show itself in the year 1796 in the appearance of Parson Folds, and his multifarious duties began to tell upon him likewise. To relieve himself in a measure he contributed towards the maintenance of an assistant Curate and Lecturer. To do this in legal form it was necessary to place the assistant's nomination before the Bishop of Chester. This was accordingly done on the 2nd August, 1796; the document certifying that the Rev. Thos. Bancroft, M.A., Vicar of Bolton, wished to appoint Richard Hewitt, B.A., to perform the office of Curate in Bolton Parish Church, and to allow him £25

* *Sayings and Doings of Parson Folds*, edited by Mr. Joseph Dodson Greenhalgh, 1879.
† *Lancashire Manuscripts.*

a year. The same sum was also given to Mr. Hewitt by Rev. Jas. Folds, the Lecturer, to assist him in the duties of Lecturer. The paper, which was given to Mr. Hewitt by Mr. Bancroft and Mr. Folds to present to the Bishop recites, "We do solemnly declare that we do not fraudulently give this certificate only to entitle the said R. Hewitt to receive Holy Orders, but with a real intention to employ him in the said Church, and to continue him to officiate therein until he be otherwise preferred." Mr. Hewitt was son of John and Mary Hewitt, being baptised 20th May, 1775, at Burton-upon-Trent, co. Stafford. He graduated at Brasennose College, Oxford, from 10th June, 1793, to 2nd June, 1795, he was ordained Deacon on the 5th September, 1796, and Priest about twelve months subsequently.

The energies of Mr. Folds were not altogether confined to ministerial work, for he is found to the fore in civil or governmental (local) concerns. For example he was an active member of the Doffcocker Toll Bar Trust,—a body which survived until early in the present century. Besides this he was a prominent Trustee for Great Bolton, being appointed in 1792, under the Act of 32 George III., c. 71.

Of the eccentricities of Parson Folds a volume might be written, but a few instances only of his quaint "Sayings and Doings," left on record by the late Mr. J. D. Greenhalgh, must suffice to show what an odd character the old Lecturer was in his day.

Mr. Folds resided at various times in different parts of the Parish, but latterly in what was considered as a large dwelling, upon a plot of land which now constitutes part of Crook Street, known as "Sweet Green House." By this name the house is still designated. To guard the residence by night a watchman was engaged, who went by the nick-name of "Sorry." Between "Sorry" and the Parson there existed no little mutual confidence. On one occasion the eccentric clergyman was mounted on his white horse, when he inquired of "Sorry" how he looked. A reply being given, the master rejoined, "Ah, I always think a parson on a white horse is like the devil coming out of a snowdrift."

Another story goes that when residing with his intended mother-in-law—previous to setting up his own household—Mr. Folds, on his wedding day, and when preparing to go to the

church, tore his black stocking below the breeches knee, thus exposing a small portion of one leg. He solicited the aid of his future wife's mother to darn the same, but she, on account of her objection to the match, refused to oblige. To avoid delay, the reverend bridegroom hit upon a novel plan to temporarily remedy the defect: he put his hand up the chimney, brought down a quantity of soot, applied it to the naked leg, and thus succeeded in hiding the breach.

The native humour of Parson Folds was not only expressed outside the church; it found vent on many occasions when he was within its sacred walls. The following is an example:— "On the occasion of Vicar Slade ascending the pulpit in the Parish Church for the first time (1817), Parson Folds, in Church order, occupied his own pulpit immediately below. It was Parson Folds' duty to preach, otherwise to read the whole or a portion of the service. With a very arch look and sharp tone of voice he, inclining his head upwards in the direction of the new Vicar, uttered the words of St. John the Baptist, "Art thou he that should come, or look we for another."

A story runs that whilst serving the Curacy of Walmsley, Parson Folds' oddities went so far as pitching the Bible at the head of some one of the congregation whom he thought was not giving heed either to his discourse, or to his reading of the sacred Book. On another occasion, as the tale is told, the old Parson had reached the uppermost step of his pulpit at Walmsley for Sabbath duty, when a goose, which by some means had hobbled thither before him, was found apparently content with its elevation, "Come thee out!" said the preacher, "one's plenty."

It is related that once on leaving the pulpit, he found two or three of his congregation in a neighbouring hostelry to Walmsley Old Chapel in earnest dispute as to how long Parson Folds had preached at the previous service. One maintained that he had only preached for five minutes. Just at this point his "reverence" dropped in, drew forth his watch, and put an end to the contention by sharply saying "I preached six minutes."

After a sharp altercation between Parson Folds and Vicar Whitehead, the former had occasion to visit the Vicarage anent Church matters, and followed the Vicar to the Parsonage. On mounting the flight of steps (now removed) the Vicar opened the door, entered the house, and abruptly closed the door in his

Lecturer's face. Stung to the quick, the injured man, ever ready with *repartee*, shouted for the Vicar's benefit: "Thou may shut the devil's door upon me, but thou cannot shut me out of God's house, or maybe thou would."

The last story which it is intended here to relate about this clerical oddity is particularly rich in wit and humour. One day a vehicle, taking the place of a modern cab, was ordered for Parson Folds. The conveyance duly arrived, and the Parson took his seat. The driver, however, hesitated to start off, seemingly expecting more passengers than one. On being questioned as to his delay the driver said that the vehicle was ordered for "the Lecturer of Bolton, the Curate of Walmsley, and the Lord of Sweet Green." "Drive on," shouted the witty Parson, "I'm all three rolled in one."

Before closing the notice of the Rev. James Folds, mention should be made of a book of household accounts which he kept for about five years—from 1780 to 1785 The entries in many instances are curious and therefore interesting, whilst they also show the mode of the Parson's living, and serve as comparisons with modern prices of household requisites. A few extracts are as follow:—

		£	s.	d.
1780.—Jan.	5.—1 pair of shoes, 5s./6d. and found soles	0	7	6
„ July	22.—To a new Suit making	0	10	6
„ Dec.	4.—A Hatt	0	13	6
1871.—Jan.	9.—Dinner at Walmsley	0	0	6
„ „	27.—25cwt. 2qrs. coal, 8/-, bread, 3d	0	8	3
„ Mar.	21.—Fourth poor rate	1	6	6
„ „	23.—26 stone of hay 13s./-, carrying it 6d., half-year's window tax 7s./-	1	0	6
„ Sep.	19.—¼lb. green tea	0	3	7
„ Nov.	3.—4¼ lbs. pork 17d., 2lbs. green tea 10s./6d., dying a silk gown 6s./-, stone soap 8s./8d.	1	17	1
„ „	23.—Paid man for carrying my wife*	0	4	0
1782.—Jan.	18.—Lost at Cards at Darcy Lever	0	5	6
„ „	29.—Sermon	0	0	2
„ Feb.	7.—Lost at Cards	0	6	6
„ Mar.	17.—Mr. Bradshaw, interred his son—gave the Vicar 21s./- for preaching, the clerk 10/6, postage 5d.	0	0	5
„ May	15.—Flower pot 1½d., my rent £8-5-0	8	5	1½
„ Sep.	2 to 9.—Spent to Preston Guild and Blackpool	4	10	0
„ Oct.	10.—Fell off my mare and broke 3 ribs in my left side, which confined me, together with the gout, a full month—doctor	1	9	0
1784—Jan.	6.—Snuff box 7s./6d., snuff 2½d	0	7	8½
„ May	10.—The Annual Book Club Dinner at "Boar's Head," paid	0	4	0
1785—Sep.	14.—Mother's bonnett	0	9	3½
„ „	29.—Tickets to oratorio	0	5	0
„ Dec.	2.—Spent at Bowling Green	0	2	6

* Probably in a Sedan-Chair.

For a period of 65 years Mr. Folds devoted himself to the ministerial duties devolving upon the Lecturer of Bolton and Curate of Walmsley; and must consequently have possessed a wide knowledge of the parishioners who frequented the mother church or the small country chapel. During this time five Vicars had held the living of Bolton, and also many stipendiary Curates. Three of the former died during their respective Vicariates, the fourth resigned, and the fifth (Canon Slade) was in charge of the Parish at the time of Parson Folds' death, which occurred "at his house, near Bolton, on the 13th August, 1820, at the advanced age of 92 years, and highly respected."* Thus closed the life of this eccentric Lecturer, who filled his office for a considerably longer term than any other minister of the Bolton Parish Church, be he Vicar, Lecturer, or Curate.

The Rev. Henry Richardson succeeded Mr. Folds in the Lectureship in 1820, and for 38 years continued in his appointment. Unlike his immediate predecessor, he failed to win the confidence of the parishioners; whilst certain indiscretions did not add to his popularity as a minister of the Gospel.† He died on the 17th September, 1858, at Poulton-le-Fylde, aged 64, and was interred at the Parish Church where he had served. His wife (to whom he was married on the 14th January, 1829,) predeceased him by 17 years, at the age of 47 years. He did not fill the Curacy of Walmsley.

The value of the Lectureship greatly increased, and with the prospect of still further improvement an effort was made in 1846 to obtain a new scheme for the appropriation of the estate; but the Master in Chancery refused to entertain the application, on the ground that £800 a year—which it was shown the value of the estates would ultimately be—was not too large a sum for a faithful minister holding such a position as the Lecturer to receive.

Another effort was made to effect an alteration in the mode of administration of the Lectureship funds, and also to decide upon a new plan for appointing the Lecturer. This was brought about by the fact that during Mr. Richardson's occu-

* *Manchester Mercury*, August 29th, 1820.

† A commission of inquiry (composed of Henry Raikes, John Rushton, Rev. E. Girdlestone, and Wm. A. Brandreth), was formed to investigate the charges against and conduct of Mr. Richardson. The inquiry was held September 8th, 1846, at which some remarkable evidence was given.—See *The Bolton Chronicle* for that date.

pancy of the Lectureship the Hulme estate had so increased in value that the income had become larger than that of the Vicarial living of the town. The augmented value of this land is accounted for by the letting for building purposes, including the construction of the London and North-Western Railway luggage station, warehouses, and sidings in Crook Street, Bolton. For this purpose a vestry meeting was held on the 21st October, 1857, when it transpired that the income from the Hulme Bequest (on Bolton Moor) amounted to £474 3s. 8d. per annum, and that from Gosnell's Charity to £41 8s. 8d., making a total of £515 12s. 4d.; moreover, there were 26,500 square yards of land still unlet, and which was estimated would yield an annual income of £331 5s. 0d. if let at 3d. per yard. The decision of this meeting was to the effect that out of the profits of the Lectureship estate £400 per annum should be transferred to the Vicar of Bolton for the time being; to reduce the Lecturer's income to £200 per annum; and to transfer the appointment of Lecturer from the inhabitant parishioners to the Corporation of Bolton and the Bishop of the Diocese.

At an adjourned meeting of the Vestry, held on the 16th December, 1857, the foregoing resolutions were in part altered, and it was ultimately resolved that "The payment of a Lecturer at the Parish Church be at the rate of not less than £250 per annum; the institution of new Lectureships, and the payment of additional Lecturers in other destitute parts of the Parish; the appointment vesting in every case, as at present, in the parishioners." The case as it now stood was submitted to the Charity Commissioners for decision, but they in turn transferred it to the Master of the Rolls.

These various schemes, however, were petitioned against by resolution passed at an "opposition" meeting held in the ante-room of the Temperance Hall, on the ground that such schemes were "in direct violation of the intention of the donors, in direct contravention of their instructions, and contrary to the wishes of the vast majority of the inhabitant parishioners."

Deputations from the various bodies interested waited upon the Charity Commissioners in March, 1858, before whom their respective cases were placed. Correspondence also passed between the representatives of the Vicar and Wardens (Messrs. Rushton and Armitstead) and the solicitor to the oppositionists

—Mr. G. Marsland—with a view to refer the matter to arbitration for settlement. The desires of the contending parties, however, were so widely at variance as to crush all hope of a compromise being secured by this means, therefore the affair was finally placed before the Master of the Rolls, whose Clerk heard the proposals and objections on the 6th May, 1858. The undoubted genuineness and veracity of the promoters were at this sitting freely commented upon by the Clerk, who, nevertheless, reserved his decision until the matter should have been thoroughly discussed.

In the meantime Mr. Richardson, the Lecturer, died, which event rendered it more urgently necessary to take prompt measures to prevent the lapse of the Charity—which would have been the case after a space of three months, consequently the hearing of the case was continued at the sitting of the Court on the 23rd November, 1858. The Vicar was heard in support of his claim, and the Rev. Thomas Berry, of Christ Church, in opposition. At the inquiry it transpired that the Vicar's income was £250 a year.

The Master of the Rolls eventually decided on the 4th December, 1858, that the Vicar should have such sum, out of the Lectureship fund, not exceeding £100 a year, as would make his total income £350, the said allowance to be discontinued whenever the income reached the last mentioned amount from any other source. The stipend of the Lecturer was fixed at £150 per annum, and the surplus income was to be applied to the creation of new districts, under Peel's Parish Acts, and applicable to the whole of the ancient parish, and not to be confined to the recently formed borough. The full number of Trustees of the Hulme's Lectureship Estate should be eight, each of whom was to be in communion with the Church of England. If reduced to four in number, the vacancies to be filled by the Court of Chancery, on application to the Master of the Rolls, preference being given to the Gosnell Charity Trustees. The Trustees were to meet not less than twice a year —three members to form a quorum, and their decision to be binding upon those absent. The Trustees were empowered to appoint a solicitor, who was to collect the income of the Trust Estate, and keep accounts of the trust and minutes of their proceedings. A banker was to be appointed, and all payments respecting the charity to be made by cheque upon such banker. Any two of the Trustees were empowered to receive from the Gosnell Charity Trustees such share of the rents and income of the Balderstone Estate, as directed by Mr. Gosnell's will to be paid to a stipendiary preacher, distinct from the Vicar, to preach in the Parish Church of Bolton ; but such income should constitute part of the income of the said trust estate.

The income was to be applied (1) In repairing and keeping in good repair all buildings belonging to the charity estates, and insured against loss or damage by fire, and in paying all costs, rates, and taxes appertaining thereto. (2) In payment of the Lecturer's stipend of £150 per year. (3) In payment of the Vicar of Bolton a sum of not more than £100 annually, as shall be necessary to make up his income to £350. The Vicar, if required by the Trustees, to make a statutory declaration, showing the net income of his Vicarage. (4) In permanently endowing up to £150, the respective ministers of any new district or parish to be hereafter created in the ancient parish of Bolton.

The nomination and appointment of the Lecturer was vested in the Vicar and the Trustees ; the Lecturer to be dismissible by the Vicar, on six months' notice, with cause assigned, with consent of the Bishop in writing. In case the Vicar and Trustees disagree as to the person to be appointed, the Bishop to have power to select between two persons nominated by the respective parties, or to reject both of them ; whilst if there be a vacancy at the expiration of six months, the appointment to lapse and be vested for that presentation in the Bishop. The Lecturer on each of the four fast days and festivals in every year, shall preach, or cause to be preached, a sermon in the

Parish Church of Bolton, in furtherance of the intentions of the lords of the Manor of Bolton, as expressed in their foundation deed of 1691. The Trustees of the charity were to file in the Bishop of Manchester's Registry a duplicate of the statements of income and revenue, and of actual receipts and expenditure. An abstract of the accounts to be published yearly in one of the Bolton newspapers. Any surplus funds to be invested in the names of four Trustees, in the purchase of bank £3 per cent. consolidated annuities. When there was an available surplus of £100 per annum, the Lord Bishop might inform the Trustees of his intentions to certify such fact to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and to request them to propound a scheme for constituting a new ecclesiastical district or parish in the Parish of Bolton. And if the said Commissioners accede to the request, the patronage of the new church to be assigned to the Bishop, the Trustees, or to any other person as the circumstances of the case at the time admit. The total income of this charity in 1858, was £598 6s. 8d., made up thus: Ground rents, £527 1s. 8d.; garden rents, £8; four parts of Gosnell's charity, £37 14s. 7d.; and dividends of stocks, £25 10s. 6d.

On the adoption of the new scheme the Vicar of Bolton and the Trustees nominated the Rev. Ralph Calvert Williams Croft, B.A., as the Lecturer.

Mr. Croft did not long remain in Bolton. The vacancy of Walmsley living, caused through the death of the Rev. John Richardson in 1859, had not yet been re-filled, therefore it was offered to and accepted by Mr. Croft in 1861, on the nomination of the Vicar of Bolton.* This again left the Lectureship unserved, and it so continued until the Rev. Joseph Farrall Wright was elected in 1864. Mr. Wright vacated the Lectureship on preferment to Christ Church, Bolton, in succession to the Rev. Thomas Berry, Incumbent, resigned on preferment to St. Werburgh's, Derby.

From this time no fewer than five Lecturers have successively filled the office, viz.:—1. Rev. John Stott (1871–1877), who was preferred to Walmsley on resignation of Mr. Croft. 2.—Rev. William Elton, M.A. (1877-1885), preferred to St. Paul's, Burnley. 3.—Rev. Francis Norman Thicknesse, B.A., Oxon.† (April 14, 1885-1887), preferred to the Rectorship of Limehouse, London. 4.—Rev. Frederick Robert Chapman Hutton, M.A., preferred to St. George's, Bolton. 5.—Rev. William Llewellyn Octavius Noott, M.A.

* In 1877 Mr. Croft was presented to Blackrod, also in the patronage of the Vicar of Bolton.

† Son of Rev. Canon Francis Henry Thicknesse, Vicar of Deane 1855-1868.

CHAPTER XXXII.

NONCONFORMITY IN BOLTON. (I.)

The Rev. Oliver Heywood and Excommunications—Puritanism in Bolton—The Ban on Nonconformity—List of Local Ministers Ejected on "Black" Bartholomew's Day—The Successive Restrictions—Terrible Sufferings—Declaration of Indulgence and its Effect upon Bolton—First Local Nonconformist Meeting Room—"Counterfeiting Excessive Joy"—Oliver Heywood and Preaching in Bolton—Rev. Richard Goodwin's Successor—Early Puritan Families—Rev. Robert Seddon in Bolton—First Bank Street Chapel: Deed of Conveyance—Presbyterians and Independents: Their Creeds and Professions—Rev. Samuel Bourn—Growth of Arianism—Unitarianism—Secessions—Revs. Philip and John Holland—Unitarian Sunday School in Acres Field—Dissension: Rev. George Harris—Ministry of Rev. Franklin Baker—Local Unitarians of To-day—Society of Friends: —Establishment in Bolton—Early Meeting House in New Acres—The Tipping Street Premises.

IN Chapter 26 we have seen how that the harshness of Archbishop Whitgift intensified the resentful feelings that had found lodgment in the breasts of, amongst others, the clergy of South Lancashire, how that a number of them had appeared before Dr. Vaughan, Bishop of Chester, in the year 1604, and were publicly admonished; how that they were cited to present themselves a second time, and that Vicar Saunderson, of Bolton, and several of his parishioners were arraigned in 1605 before Dr. George

Lloyd, the new diocesan; how that Vicar Robert Parke fled to Holland to avoid prosecution, to return eventually; and how that secret meetings were held in Bolton of those who refused to conform to the drastic laws laid down from time to time for the "better government" of the Church and her children. Further, excommunications* have been referred to, and Vicar Goodwin's

* The following interesting account of how excommunicants were prohibited from joining in the celebration of the Sacrament, as told by the Rev. Oliver Heywood, the Nonconformist. He writes:—"In the year 1647, or thereabouts, the Presbiterian government being settled in Bolton the ministers Mr. John Harpur and Mr. Richard Goodwin, together with the Eldership made an order (after examination and approbation of the communicants) that every time they were to come to the Lord's supper, every particular communicant should upon the Friday before fetch a little ticket (as they called it) of lead of the Elders, and shew it to the Elders again in the Church before they were to receive the Sacrament, that they might know that none but such as were admitted did intrude themselues, the Elders also took them of them at that time and they were to fetch them agt. the next, now my father together with several others, able Christians in the congregation were unwilling to submit to this practice, partly because they lookt upon it as an innovation, and a snare partly because it was cumbersome to the communicants, partly because an unceartain mean to attain the end, as experience testifyed, partly also because no other Churches in the country used any such practice, these and such like reasons he exhibited to the Eldership in writing, and in his own practice refused to fetch or shew any such ticket when he came to the Sacrament, whereupon they sent for him, summoned him to appear before them, he came, and many disputes they had, they admonished him, and when he was still resolute persisting still in his schisme, as they pleased to call it, they suspended him from the Lord's supper, but that was not sufficient for (as I remember) they did also excommunicate him, for contempt, because as they said he laught them to scorne, for hauing naturally a smiling countenance, it may be he might sometimes smile in his discourses with them, however, he would not submit himself upon their admonition, nor acknowledg that he had done wrong, therfore they proceeded, my dear mother would have had him to have yeelded, for peace-sake, the rest, old Robt. Crompton, Roger Roscow, &c. (though approving what he did and incouraging him, yet), held off and would not appear, so that he was alone in that controversy, being in this strait, shut out from communion with them, he appealed to the classical meeting of Ministers and Elders, where it was debated a considerable time, and though the Classes were unsatisfyed in the proceedings of the Eldership of Bolton agt. my father, yet they were loath to censure them, only desired them to passe it by and admit him to the supper, but when they trifled about it and did nothing, my father made an appeal from the Classical Presbitery at Bury to the Provincial Assembly at Preston, and after the business had been debated there they made an Order that the congregationall Eldership of Bolton should revoke their sentence of suspension of my father from the Lord's supper, admit him again into fellowship with them, exorting both sides to a mutual accommodation, &c. (and, as I remember the tickets, the occasion of this contention, were by this time laid aside). When this came to the Ministers and Elders of Bolton Church, they, something stickled at his restauration without his submission, however, they were bound to obey the order of the provincial assembly, and at last framed a paper wch was read in the Church, wherein they freed R. Heywood from his suspension, but withall made some hints therein as though he had submitted himself, which he did not, and so it was not at all satisfactory to him, and I think he never joyned with them at the Lord's supper afterwards, but was entertained at Cockey, and all places about." The writer continuing says: "At the later end of 1648 I writ much for him [his father—R. Heywood], which was in reply to the Eldership of Bolton, and some appeales, which I haue not forgot, but the controversy was hot, begot much bad blood, many animositys amongst good peoples in that society, some taking one side, others another, so that it became a very heavy burden to the spirit of my dear mother, who was all for love and peace, and was willing to haue yeelded to any thing rather then haue contended; but he stood upon his own integrity wch he often said he would not be removed as long as he lived. But, however, it was a great affliction to him, which yet he bore with invincible courage and magnanimity, and was not daunted with anything. He had severall friends to consult with, among wch was Mr. Peter Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, who helpt him what he could, and was the Scribe of the Classical meeting. Mr. Goodwin (now my brother-in-law, then minister of Bolton) was something sharp with him, wch he tooke worse because my father was the only man that brought him from London into Lancashire and procured him a settlement at Cockey after good old Mr. Rathband's silencing."

refusal to obey the mandate levelled at him, his ejection from spiritual office, his itinerancy, and his setting up a church of worship for himself in Bolton, because of bolt after bolt shot at him and other Non-conforming ministers, have been recited in Chapter 27.

In other words, some idea has been given of the rise of Nonconformity in Bolton; let us look more closely into it, and into the progress it made in after years.

Puritanism had been born a hundred years before the inauguration of the meeting room in Mealhouse Lane, under the presidency of the ejected Vicar, Richard Goodwin, from which it will be easily gathered that Bolton was by no means among the first of the populous centres where Non-conforming principles bore early, and, at the same time, ample fruit. There was much to account for this—the distance of the town from the focus of the movement, the slowness with which the agitation spread owing to the rigour of the laws adopted by Church and State, the wars with France and Spain, and the outbreak and spread of the Civil War, in face of which nearly everything was stifled for the time. The sieges and defence of Bolton were enough indeed to drive all thoughts of spiritual progress and reform from men's minds, not only while they lasted, but for years afterwards. Still, the embers of Nonconformity that had been kindled in Bolton were not rendered altogether lifeless—refugee Nonconformists were silent but not dead. There was a slumbering, a hidden force that awaited the occasion to break forth into flame. The people of Bolton have, in truth, ever been prone to look at matters closely and deliberately prior to deciding upon their line of action. Once, however, conviction has settled itself, it has been most difficult to turn it aside, and a great deal has been required to prevent outburst of feelings.

The Non-conforming movement had affected Bolton early in the seventeenth century,* and when in the year 1630 Parke fled to Holland to escape those pursuing him in the name of the Church no small amount of sympathy went out with him; had it not been so Mr. Richard Heywood, of Little Lever, father of those two divines Oliver and Nathaniel Heywood, would not

* The Chetham Society papers, Vol. 18, p. xix., show that Presbyterianism had been established in Lancashire by a special ordinance, October, 1646, and although persecuted under Cromwell, still in Manchester, the convictions of the great majority of respectable people "insured to this sect" protection, if not power.

have been despatched for the purpose of urging him to return, nor would Parke have been listened to subsequently as Lecturer. The understandings of the folks in and around Bolton must surely have been exercised by the vagaries perpetrated by monarchs and spiritual advisers, that is to say in the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., again during the supremacy of Cromwell, and at the restoration of the monarchy with the accession of Charles II. The latter was weak and vacillating. His nature was not worse than possessed certain of his predecessors, but his advisers were strong. He agreed to the proposal to disqualify Nonconformists from municipal offices, and in the year 1662 he sanctioned the passing of the Act of Uniformity, by which, as we noticed in the sketches of Vicar Goodwin and Lecturer Parke, 2000 clergymen of the re-Established Church were deprived of their means of livelihood. Among other clergymen who suffered in a similar manner were Michael Briscoe, of Walmsley Chapel (he went to Toxteth, Liverpool, and formed a congregation); John Lever, of Ainsworth, or Cockey Chapel (Lever became the second Presbyterian minister in Bolton); Drury, of Bradshaw; Taylor, of Turton; John Tilsley, of Deane (who went to live ultimately in Manchester); Walton, of Horwich; Samuel Newton, of Rivington (whither he returned and died in 1682); and Richard Astley, of Blackrod (who went to Hull and became Presbyterian minister there). The Act demanded that in all cases where a minister had not been ordained by a Bishop, a re-ordination should take place. The clergy were required to accede to everything contained in the Book of Common Prayer; to renounce the Solemn League and Covenant; and to make oath it was not lawful under any pretext or occasion whatever to take up arms against the King. To preclude the ejected from forming congregations of their own the Conventicle Act was passed in 1663. This Act set forth that "all meetings of more than five individuals besides those of the family, for any religious purpose not according to the Book of Common Prayer, were seditious and unlawful conventicles; and it was enacted that the punishment of attendance at such meetings by any person above sixteen years of age should be—for the first offence a fine of five pounds, or imprisonment during three months; for the second a fine of ten pounds, or imprisonment during six months; for the

third a fine of one hundred pounds, or transportation for seven years; and that if the conscience of the offender led him to transgress the law more than thrice, the fine at each repetition of the offence should be augmented by the additional sum of one hundred pounds." Nor was this all. In the year 1665 came the Five Mile Act, prohibiting Non-conforming ministers coming, unless passing on the road, within five miles of any place where he had exercised his ministry, under very heavy penalties, and persons were told off to watch for offenders. Drastic measures these, and sufficient to drive underground, if not extinguish, the hopes of conducting divine worship other than according to the forms of the restored Church. Says Richard Baxter, "Many hundreds of the clergy, with their wives and children, had neither homes nor bread. Their congregations had enough to do besides a small maintenance to keep them out of prison, or maintain them when there. Though they were as frugal as possible they could hardly live; some lived on little more than brown bread and water, many had but eight or ten pounds a year to maintain a family, so that a piece of flesh had not come to their tables in six weeks time; their allowance could scarce afford them bread and cheese."

A happier era was inaugurated at length for the ejected ministers and their sympathisers—an era that came in, as referred to in connection with Richard Goodwin's experiences, with the Declaration of Indulgence,* when 3000 applications

* On this subject Adam Martindale, in his diary says:—"This yeare, viz., March 15 1671-2, came out the King's Declaration for indulgence to all sorts of Dissenters, allowing to all, save Papists onely, their publick licensed places, and to them their libertie in private."

A more detailed account appears in a foot-note to the printed "Life of Adam Martindale," edited for the Chetham Society by the Rev. Richd. Parkinson, B.D., Canon of Manchester, in 1845. The extract is culled from *Hunter's Life of Heywood*, and reads as follows:—"Early in the year [1672] a great and sudden change took place in the policy of the country. It was determined by the King's Advisers, that he should dispense with all penal laws against the Nonconformists, and that the ministers should be allowed, on certain easy conditions, to conduct religious services in such manner and places as to them should seem meet. This was to be done by virtue of the King's prerogative, as supreme in ecclesiastical affairs, it being well known that Parliament would not give its sanction to the measure, so great was the dread of an intention on the part of the King to introduce Popery, and so strong the persuasion of the importance of maintaining the Protestant Church of England in its full strength, as the great defence against such a design.

The change was, therefore, announced by a Declaration issued on the King's sole authority. The Declaration was to the effect, that there was very little fruit of all those forcible courses and many frequent ways of coercion that had been used for reducing all erring and dissenting persons; wherefore, by virtue of his supreme power in matters ecclesiastical, he suspends all penal laws about them, and offers to allow a convenient number of public meeting-places to men of all sorts that did not conform, provided they took out licences, set open the doors to all comers, and preach not seditiously, nor against the discipline, nor Government of the Church of England." This Declaration was published on the 15th of March,

were made in the country for power to open or erect places of worship outside the pale of Episcopacy. Thus it was that Goodwin began to preach, and his admirers and fellow Nonconformists to assemble, in that first meeting room in Mealhouse Lane, of which a description has been given.* No fear now of persecution for acting upon one's faith—no gatherings in secret for religious worship—no banishment and starvation for ministers of the gospel. The word "toleration" had gone forth, and whether the promulgation of it was meant specially by the King or not to cover Roman Catholics, it was none the less welcome to the Dissenting portions of communities. That secret meetings had been held in Bolton and the neighbourhood is certain, and that arrests, fines, and imprisonment were not unknown we may take for granted also. It may be added, to what has previously appeared in these pages, record† states:—

In a letter written by Sir Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh, near Wigan, on the 30th January, 1666-7, addressed to Sir Joseph Wilkinson, one of the Secretaries of State, is the following reference to an arrest by the writer, as Justice of the Peace, on Christmas Day, 1666, of a party of Presbyterians, who had offered resistance. Although it is generally believed that the Non-conforming Puritans of Charles the Second's time altogether disapproved of the religious observance of Christmas, it appears that in 1666 members of a Presbyterian Congregation met at their 'conventicle' or meeting-house, situate somewhere in the district between Bolton and Wigan, to hold a religious service on Christmas Day; for which offence, however, they were pounced upon, arrested, and severely dealt with at the Sessions. Sir Roger Bradshaigh wrote:—"Took severe course at the Sessions with those Presbyterians who resisted apprehension at a conventicle on Christmas Day. The Common Prayer Book has been stolen out of Bolton Church, torn in pieces, and thrown into the street channel. Has a strict eye on the town [Bolton], which holds the same principles they had in the Rebellion. Has examined four reputed witches; one confessed that she, her father and mother, each rode on a black cat to Warrington, nine miles off, and that the cats sucked her mother till they sucked blood. Has little faith in this, though given on oath, and has sent two of them to the gaol."

We read again of the spirit of unrest that was abroad:‡

Ffor Joseph Wilkinson, Esq., at his office at the Court, theis, London.

Sir,—My humble service presented, I am glad to heare the Court is remoov'd further of the Contagion at London, I pray God keep it at that distance whilst it rageth, wee take course to confyne all in theise parts that come from London, though to theire owne houses ffor a month, and those who entertains them, by wh. means, under God wee hope to keepe the North free; at our sestiens July the 17th wee had two convicted of the second offence for a conventicle, and one of the first offence, and though the fyne was only ten shillings, wee set upon them, the Stubornes of the Anababtists weare such, they rather choose a Goale, then submitt, and the imprisonment alsoe is soe easy beinge ordered only for 2 months, that I believe the 3d offence will quickly quitt vs of them, and many more by the same trapp, at the celebration of the thanksgiveing day (for our late glorious and happy victory) (at Boulton Towne) neare mee, some of the godly of that place to counterfeite theire excessive joy, had taken soe much of the Creature that the Clerk of the Church pretending to lead vp and trayne a company of boyse and loose people, and beinge admonisht by another of the Towne (a gunsmith) 5 of them fell upon him, and with severall weapens gave him every one a Deaths wound whearof hee dyed in the place, and for wch they are all sent to Goale.

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* Chapter XXVIII.

† *Palatine Note Book.*

‡ Oliver Heywood's Diaries, Vol. 3, p. 9.

The weeke following the clarke of the next Parish call'd (Deane Church) hang'd him selfe in (sic) one of the Bell Ropes, hauing before attempted it upon the Bough of a yew tree in the Church-yeard, his discontent was soposed to bee Jelevsy. The Barbadose fleete wch last came home left one of theire Company behynd them, by a sad accident, being Richly Laden, the night before they weare to set sayle, the Mariners being drunck with Brandy, suffer'd it to take fyer of the Sugar, and soe of the Ship, that shee was burnt to Cabin imediately. The vessell belongd to Mr. Blundell, of Ince of this county, who though an antient Gentleman and of a good estate, had for the encouragment of others, set up this way of adventure. This is all at present and with my servise presented I rest,

Your most faythfull servant,

ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

Haigh, July the 21st, 1665.

Edward Tildesley, Esquire, of this County, hath now allmost finished a vessell of a considerable burthen, wch I beleeve hee will goe to sea with him selfe ere longe.

The Non-conforming congregation that assembled to hear the ejected Richard Goodwin preach in the new meeting house gave no tokens of decline as time came round—on the contrary, the numbers increased, Services were held regularly on the Sabbath, and occasionally meetings were held in the week time —all of them characterised by a spirit of true devotion, the more intense because of the cost individually and collectively. Devotions must have been sweeter and more realistic, in consequence of agreement with every form and every point of doctrine, and by reason of love for him who had laboured in the imposing edifice at the east end of Deansgate, and which, with the emoluments attached to it, had been relinquished rather than that he would betray conscience and live what would have been to him a false life. Robert Parke, Richard Goodwin's whilom coadjutor and fellow sufferer, would surely have evinced practical sympathy with the congregation had life been spared to him. The saintly Oliver Heywood, of Little Lever, preached here occasionally. He ministered to the assembly in the very year the meeting place off Deansgate was opened, and from time to time gave it countenance and support, as may be gathered from his published Diaries. Of his early visit to the room upon what would now be the Woolpack Inn premises Oliver Heywood says, "Wednesday morning, September 18th, 1672, I went towards Lanc., preacht in Warley that day, lodged at Mr. Horton's, the next day went to Manchester, visited frinds, saturday went to Bolton, preacht there on lord's day, kept a fast at Brother Hultons on munday, thuesday went to little Leaver, wednesday we preacht at Cockey, my brother and I, my mother's sermon, it being licensed, thursday I preacht with Mr. Pike at Bolton, in brother Goodwin's pulpit, lodged with my brother Heywood at Mr. Leaver's," and so on. Other records

there are of Oliver Heywood's visits to Bolton, and his preaching in "Brother Goodwin's pulpit." Surely he does not speak of an experience in the meeting room at Bolton, when he wrote in his diary that in the month of September, 1689, he was "extraordinarily employed" in Lancashire, preaching almost every day for almost a fortnight, in several places about Manchester, Bolton, and Ratchdal (Rochdale), when he "laid himself" out "in weeping, wrestling, beating my braines and lungs, but had no incouragment" concerning the success of his labours. Rev. Richard Goodwin had then gone to his account (12th December, 1685), but the services had been and were continued in the room consecrated by the labours of the ex-Vicar of Bolton, by John Lever. This divine had felt impelled to preach ever and anon from Goodwin's pulpit, as well as outside, when physical weakness was creeping slowly but surely upon the aged Goodwin. Ejected as Lever had been from Cockey, and holding still by the opinions he then held, it was in the natural order of things that he should be elected Goodwin's successor to preach, to visit, and to administer the Lord's Supper, as Calamy tells us, every month to hundreds of worshippers.*

Nor were Lever and Oliver Heywood the only divines who exercised an influence upon the fortunes of the first of the recognised Non-conforming congregations in Bolton after the death of Goodwin. Rev. Robert Seddon, originally of Prestwich, just outside the parish of Bolton, was one of the ejected two thousand. He was Rector of Langley, in Derbyshire, and came to reside in Bolton finally as a place of refuge and peace during the pastorate of John Lever, which covered a period of seven years. Lever died 4th July, 1692, and almost immediately Robert Seddon was appointed to succeed him, and retained office until death called him home also, 25th March, 1696. Rev. Samuel Bourn, of Colne, nephew of Rev. Robert Seddon, was the fourth minister of the meeting place at the junction of Deansgate and Mealhouse Lane.

But the scene of the Sabbath and occasional week-day

* Among the Puritan families who formed the congregation at this early period of its existence we can trace the names of the Okeys, the Cockerells, the Cromptons, the Scolcrofts, the Moxons, the Holts, the Duhirsts, the Heywoods, the Fernisides, the Critchlaws, the Thropps, the Horrockses, the Andrews', the Collyers, the Booths, the Smiths, and the Bridges. Civil and religious histories alike speak of this town as one of the great centres of Nonconformity.—*Baker's Rise and Progress of Nonconformity in Bolton.*

service* was to be changed. The room had become "too strait;" it would not accommodate conveniently those who flocked into it. To provide more adequately for the needs of the day Robert Seddon had willed a plot of land off Windy Bank (Bank Street) and at the rear of an abode he purchased fronting the thoroughfare. The deed of conveyance was signed a short time before Mr. Seddon's demise.

The interval between the conveyance of the lands and the date of the license, allows about a year and a half for the building of the chapel. This license has been preserved and is a curious document. It contains on one and the same page the application signed by the minister and five of his congregation, to which is affixed the Bishop's license from his court at Chester. The following is a copy of it.

Bolton, September 22, 1696.

These presents may certifie all whom it doth concern, that there is a Meeting House newly erected for the worship of Almighty God by his Majesty's loyal Protestant subjects, the Dissenters of Bolton and the adjacent parts, commonly called Presbyterians, upon a piece of ground lately purchased of Robert Haslam, and given for that end and use by the Reverend Mr. Robert Seddon, lately deceased, and that it is a place of safety, and that the Meeting designed to be held there cannot reasonably be supposed to be any Nuisance or hindrance to the market, since we have on the contrary experienced that the Lecture hitherto hath been an advantage to it. Now we humbly desire (tho' we might legally demand) that the said Meeting House may be registered or recorded according to the direction of the law, and that thereof we may receive a certificate pursuant to these premises.

Attested by—

JOHN ANDREWS, 1696,
SAM. BOURN,
NATH. CROMPTON,
EDWARD POTTER,
DAN. HEMINGWAY,
EDWARD KENYON.

This certificate was entered or registered in the Registry of the Lord Bishop of Chester upon the request within made in pursuance of a late Act, and by his Lordship's order, the thirteenth day of September, 1696.

Ita testatur Henricus Prescott, Registrar Deputy. The Chapel was immedintely afterwards opened for public worship by the Rev. Samuel Bourn.

Mr. Baker tells how efforts were made to fuse into one body the Presbyterians and the Independents, and that they failed. As he tersely puts it, the tendencies of the doctrinal views of the Independents were towards a dogmatical profession of faith, founded on the Assembly's Catechism; those of the Presbyterians were against all restrictions either of creeds or professions. The Independents had embraced Calvinism in all its strictness; the Presbyterians, opposed to predestination, and with secret reservations on many other points of orthodoxy, decidedly inclined to Arminianism. "It was this attempt to unite the two great parties of Nonconformists soon after the

* Established by Nathaniel Hulton, for which £15 per annum was paid, and £5 for catechising.

Revolution that led to the revival of the provincial assembly in this county. The first public general meeting of this body was held at Bolton on the 3rd April, 1693. The ministers of the neighbourhood gave their support to the project for a union. But it failed. The extreme views of the predestinarians could brook no compromise.

Rev. Samuel Bourn laboured in connection with the Bank Street Chapel until the year 1719. He died 14th March of that year, "like a shock of corn fully ripe, laden with the fruits of age, piety, and wisdom, at the age of 73. His remains were deposited near the pulpit from which he had so often poured forth his animated appeals to the faith, hopes, and consciences of his congregation."

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Dixon was Mr. Bourn's immediate successor, and after he died, 14th August, 1729, Rev. John Buck was minister for twenty-three years, death terminating his ministerial duties in Bolton, 8th July, 1750. His remains were laid within the chapel. Arianism, which had begun to find favour under Mr. Bourn, continued to find strength among the Bank Street congregation, and about 1754 that Unitarianism which the worshippers in the chapel at present standing still favour, was strongly entertained among them, though not until heartburnings and disputations had prevailed, and those of the members favouring the teachings of Calvin had seceded and founded a meeting place, or chapel, as Independents.

Following on a brief ministerial oversight on the part of Rev. Thomas Dixon, son of Rev. Dr. Dixon, predecessor of Rev. John Buck, was begun in 1755 the ministry of Rev. Philip Holland, of Wem, Shropshire. So successful was he that an enlargement of the Chapel was necessary, and took place 1760. Mr. Holland conducted a boarding school, one well attended by youths of many influential families in Bolton. Mr. Philip Holland was minister of Bank Street until 3rd January, 1789. Rev. John Holland, his nephew, was then elected to Bank Street Chapel and congregation, was shortly afterwards ordained, and held the ministry for 31 years, only resigning on account of failing health in 1820. While he was minister in Bolton the Sunday School movement was inaugurated, and a Unitarian school was formed in Acresfield, and held until 1796, when school premises were opened in an upper room to the

south of the chapel. For years Sunday teaching went on in the chapel, until the rebuilding in 1856, and in 1866 the present school building was erected by public subscription. The Hulton Schools were erected, and in 1866 scholars were transferred thence to Commission Street, in the building now used as a chapel likewise. Of Rev. John Holland and his ministry, Rev. F. Baker says :—

> The unaffected simplicity and piety of his character never failed to communicate itself to his hearers, and while they gave solemnity to his preaching, supplied the want of the more showy qualities of pulpit eloquence. His look, his voice, his attitude, all bespoke the humble-minded, benevolent, and devout minister of Christ. The times in which Mr. John Holland lived, and particularly the commencement of his ministerial career, called forth one of the prominent features of his character. His intrepidity in persisting to preach the doctrines of Unitarianism, denounced on all sides as they were as destructive to Christianity and hostility to civil government, drew upon him the frequent remonstrances of many of the more timid of his own friends, besides an accumulation of odium from religious and political opponents. His utter disregard to all opposition, when truth and justice required him to speak and act, rendered him still further obnoxious to the cry of Church and King, which then echoed through the country. On one occasion he was burnt in effigy, and on another he was represented riding on an ass, as chief mourner, in a processon intended as a mock celebration of the funeral of the author of "the Rights of Man." Mr. John Holland, after a ministry of 31 years, found his health unequal to the discharge of his official duties, and sent in his resignation August 20th, 1820, though his life did not terminate till June 3rd or 25th, 1826.

His funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Franklin Baker. A white and black marble monument in the shape of a sarcophagus was placed in Bank Street Chapel to his memory, its *locale* being on the wall, behind the pulpit, in the old chapel. When the chapel was largely renovated the tablet was removed to a much more prominent position. It bears the following :—"Inscribed to the memory of the Reverend John Holland, by the religious society worshipping in this chapel, with whom he spent the whole term of his Ministry, and who record on this Marble their grateful and affectionate remembrance of his zeal, his talents, and his virtues. Elected Minister of this Chapel A.D. 1789, Died 3rd June, A.D. 1826." The Rev. John Holland published several works.*

Rev. Noah Jones, who had officiated at Walmsley Unitarian Chapel for a short time, came to Bank Street, October, 1821, but he had to resign after a brief ministry owing to failing health. Then began in Bolton the ministerial life of Rev. Franklin Baker, his ordination to Bank Street taking place 23rd September, 1824. Of his coming and his stay, Mr. Baker has said, "Circumstances there were connected with the recent

* *Bolton Bibliography* (pp. 190-1), by Jas. C. Scholes.

separation of a portion of the congregation* which might have daunted older and more experienced men. After an interval of more than thirty years, however, he has never had reason to repent of the decision to which he then came." Mr. Baker was born at Birmingham, 27th August, 1800, and Bank Street was his first ministry. He entered upon it fresh from a most honourable course at Glasgow University. Very early Mr. Baker made himself a favourite with the congregation worshipping at Bank Street. His quiet, unassuming, courteous manner struck a chord in the hearts of all who came in contact with him immediately, while his sermons on the Sabbath and his discourses in school were exceedingly attractive in style. Deep, yet plain, they carried conviction to the mind and touched the hearts of those who soon esteemed it a privilege to listen to him, Though quiet in demeanour generally, however, Mr. Baker had a rare fund of fighting power in him. In middle life he loved polemics, and did not shrink from expressing himself. He was a Reformer to the core, and throughout the early days of the Reform agitation in Bolton he was as busy as any man in directing public opinion. Periods of distress in the town brought out many of his Christianlike qualities. Charles James Darbishire and Robert Heywood were members of his congregation, and with them and others anxious for the incorporation of the borough he worked in cordial agreement. In brief, and to quote the words upon the tablet erected to his memory in Bank Street Chapel, he, Franklin Baker, was a sincere Christian, a faithful minister, and an ardent friend of civil and religious liberty. The rev. gentleman closed a forty years' ministry in

* In the summer of 1821, three years before the ordination of Mr. Baker, a division occurred in the congregation worshippers at Bank Street Chapel, on account of the prevalent doctrines of Arianism or Unitarianism, when for nearly twelve months the Separatists met to worship first in a private dwelling and afterwards in the Cloth Hall. About that time they purchased the commodious chapel in Moor Lane belonging to the Calvinistic Baptists, for £900, and great exertions were made to liquidate the debt thus incurred; but, notwithstanding the generosity of that sect, the incumbrance greatly fettered their labours for nearly twenty years, and instead of realising the anticipated freedom, very little permanent headway was made in the dissemination of those principles for which they had sacrificed their former association with the parent chapel. Unsuccessful to free the place from debt, it was resolved to dispose of it, which was ultimately done. In the meantime it was rented as the United Methodist Free Church. . . . During the short period of religious independence the Moor Lane Chapel pulpit was occupied by five resident pastors. . . . Before the Chapel was occupied by its struggling congregation [Unitarian Secessionists] the services of the Rev. George Harris, of Liverpool, were secured, who thereupon became their minister. This was in 1822, and though he only officiated there three years no less than five literary productions of his passed through the press. In all something like thirty-six pamphlets and books were written by Mr. Harris during his ministerial career.—*Bolton Bibliography and Jottings of Book Lore, by Jas. C. Scholes.*

Bolton, May, 1864, owing to failing health; he died in retirement, 25th May, 1867, and was interred in the family vault, at Birmingham. At Bank Street, Mr. Baker was succeeded by Rev. Jeffery Worthington. Rev. C. C. Coe is the present minister, the date of his settlement being May, 1874.

Worship has been conducted in the Commission Street Unitarian Chapel—a plain brick building—since 1868.

In the early part of 1891, Rev. James Crossley, of Cradley, was selected to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Rev. J. J. Wright to Chowbent Unitarian Chapel. A one-storeyed meeting hall in Lark Street was utilised for several years as a centre for Nonconformists, mainly Unitarians. After much struggling, however, the numbers in attendance had dwindled so low that the support of a resident minister was no longer attempted. Temperance meetings, lectures, and gatherings of a social character were held from time to time in the building, until in March, 1891, the premises were sold by the owner to the local Co-operative Society for storage and other purposes.

Not very far from the premises at the corner of Deansgate and Mealhouse Lane, occupied by the first acknowledged congregation of Nonconformists in Bolton, another place for divine worship was opened in the year 1721, that is to say the Friends Meeting House. It was situate at the north-east corner of New Acres—Acres-field as the thoroughfare has long been named. The site of the building is now vacant and enclosed, and is at the west-side of Messrs. Morris and Sons' printing establishment, the frontage of which is in Hotel Street. The disciples of George Fox met in the town and neighbourhood of Bolton prior to the year just mentioned. Brown wrote in his day that in a conversation with James Brandwood, who was known as "Steward of Turton," and who was a leader among the followers of Fox for nearly half a century, he learned that there was a family of Friends or Quakers there before William Penn left this country for America. He states also that no fewer than seventy-three members of the Society of Friends were thrown into Lancashire prisons. One Israel Pemberton, a shopkeeper in Windy-bank Lane, at the foot of Windy-bank (now Bank Street) appears to have been a prominent man amongst the local Quakers, to have been imprisoned and to have sought refuge, ultimately, in New England. Whether he was a

resident in Bolton at the time George Fox's teachings begun to spread or whether he came hereabouts in hiding from more marked centres of persecution, record does not say. At all events, he was in Bolton very early in the history of the Society of Friends—in other words, nearly 200 years ago.

But the tenets propounded by Fox obtained no appreciable hold in Bolton, and even at the opening of the Meeting House in New Acres the congregation was a small one indeed. Though small, however, the members of the church were firmly bound together—true to one another and the principles they professed; faithful in the extreme, notwithstanding the banter and the scorn to which they were subjected. A few, at any rate, of the well-known families in Bolton and the vicinity looked with sympathy upon the Society of Friends, and certain of them, as for instance the Ashworths, the Thomassons, and the Horrockses, attended for worship either in Bolton or in a Meeting House erected in the wild, exposed, district of Edgworth in the year 1767. In the year 1809 the parents of the late Right Honourable John Bright were married at the Sanctuary in the New Acres, Miss Martha Wood, the bride, being the daughter of John and Margaret Wood, who had a clogger's shop in Taylor Brow or Clog Lane, on the south side of the present Market Hall and abutting on Deansgate. The Friends in Bolton were ever content to go on worshipping quietly and in their own way, and offering interference to no men nor sects. And so their history is a prosaic, an uneventful one, as is the case with kindred Societies in other towns. Generation succeeded generation with the same hopes and aspirations, and were guided by the same regulations, until in the year 1820 the old brick building in New Acres was vacated for the more spacious, loftier, and lighter Meeting House of stone in Tipping Street, Folds Road.

This House is the only one still in Bolton attended by the Society of Friends. Those who assemble within its walls to-day are proud of it; they are content, as were their forefathers, to approach their Maker quietly, unostentatiously, and in their own unaffected way, and to keep open the one small Sunday School in premises adjoining.

A reading room was opened in the old premises in New Acres by the Constitutionalists in Bolton after the Friends left them for Tipping Street. Corporation departmental business was conducted in the block for many years prior to possession being taken of the Town Hall in the year 1873.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

NONCONFORMITY IN BOLTON. (II.)

Birth and Early Career of John Wesley—Spread of Wesleyanism—David Taylor—John Bennet: His Itinerancy—The "Cheshire" Circuit—Bennet Travels to Bolton—John Wesley's Coming: He Preaches at Bolton Cross: A Rude Reception—Rage and Bitterness—Storming Wesley's Retreat—Transformation—Whitfield's Appearance in Bolton—A Desperado—Disagreement and Secession—A Calvinistic Sanctuary—John Wesley at the Hotel Street Meeting Place—Growth of Wesleyan Methodism in Bolton—Wesley's Later Visits to the Town: Marked Compliments—"A Blessed Calm"—Ridgway Gates Chapel and Sunday School—Death of John Wesley—Bolton Wesleyan Circuit—Revs. Christopher Hopper and Samuel Bradburn—A Serious "Split"—Wesleyan Refugees—Great Expansion of Wesleyan Methodism—The Methodist New Connexion Body: Secession to the Church of England—Primitive Methodism—Independent Methodists — United Methodist Free Churches.

THE Presbyterian congregation had scarcely settled in their new quarters in Bank Street, Bolton, at the close of the seventeenth century, and the third local congregation was quite in embryo, when a son was born to Rev. Samuel Wesley, a Lincolnshire clergyman, who was destined to create another upheaval in the religious world, and to affect Bolton quite as much as he did any other town in the country. That son was John Wesley, the date of whose birth is 17th June, 1703, and who, after

receiving education at Charterhouse, proceeded to Christ Church, Oxford. He took his B.A. degree, was Fellow of Lincoln College, was ordained 1725, and proceeded to his M.A. degree in 1726. John Wesley gathered a number of pupils around him, not only for secular subjects, but for spiritual matters, and visiting the sick and prisoners where he could, made an impression at Oxford that would not have been easily obliterated if he had not done much in later years to emphasise what he then accomplished.

We need not follow John Wesley closely to show what he did in and around Oxford; we will not accompany him in imagination in his work as a missionary to Georgia; we will not speak at length of his relaxation of High Church principles nor of the stand he determined to take as a religionist—we will only say this: that in the early part of 1738 John Wesley felt an "uneasiness in him was owing to unbelief, that the gaining of a true living faith was the one thing essential to him, and that he resolved not to trust in the doctrines of the Establishment merely for salvation, but that he would trust in Christ alone for it." "I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation," says Wesley, "and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." Henceforth he would take the Word of God throughout the length and breadth of the land; and his brother Charles, his friend George Whitfield, and others of a band of devoted, independent worshippers of God, would help him. In response to an invitation from Whitfield, Wesley went first to Bath and Bristol, converting and strengthening, and becoming the direct means of the institution of a meeting house. This was at Bristol; the foundation stone of the edifice was laid 12th May, 1739. How Wesley went on his way rejoicing and succeeded in arousing a wonderful degree of enthusiasm in city, town, and village, and in forming societies, is known to the majority of men.

Among the thousands in the south, the west, the east, and the midlands of England who were deeply moved by the burning language of the Wesleys, Whitfield, and their companions, was one David Taylor, who commenced to go about Leicestershire with the Bible in his hand and the Word of God in his mouth. He in turn was the means of leading one John Bennet to engage in itinerant preaching likewise. Bennet was a young man in

his 26th year and was at Sheffield when he first heard Taylor. He had gone to scoff, or something akin to it, but remained to pray. He was so affected, indeed, by David Taylor's words that he became a preacher, traversing Cheshire and Derbyshire, and making excursions into Lancashire and Yorkshire. In the middle of the year 1742, Bennet obtained an introduction to John Wesley whilst at Mirfield, Yorkshire, and was formally accepted by him not long afterwards as a Methodist preacher. Wesley seems to have trusted Bennet implicitly, to have acted upon his advice in coming into Lancashire more than once; for the "assistant" knew much of the needs and the possibilities of the county, he having been placed in charge of the "Cheshire" circuit, which was very large, comprising as it did Cheshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Nottingham. The visits of John and Charles Wesley to Lancashire had stirred Manchester and the surrounding towns, so that when John Wesley actually entered Bolton for the first time—of which there is any available record,—28th August, 1748, he found a Methodist Society in existence, owing largely, however, to the efforts of John Bennet, who had been in the town. Bennet was with Wesley on the occasion of his inaugural visit, but his presence did not save the great revivalist from the impolite attentions of the disorderly. We have the record in *Wesley's Journal*:—

At one I went to the Cross in Bolton.

There was vast number of people, but many of them utterly wild. As soon as I began preaching they began thrusting to and fro; endeavouring to throw me down from the steps on which I stood. They did so once or twice; but I went up again and continued my discourse. They then began to throw stones; at the same time some got upon the Cross behind me to push me down, on which I could not but observe how God overruled even the minutest circumstances. One man was bawling just at my ear, when a stone struck him on the cheek, and he was still. A second was forcing his way down to me, till another stone hit him upon the forehead, it bounded back, the blood ran down, and he came no further. The third being got close to me, stretched out his hand, and in the instant a sharp stone came upon the joints of his fingers, he shook his hand, and was very quiet till I concluded my discourse and went away.

John Wesley's second visit to Bolton was on the 18th October, 1749. Discouraging as his first reception had been this was still more so. It was brutal, and left upon the mind of the preacher an impression he never forgot. Wesley writes:*

Wednesday, October 14th.—I rode at the desire of John Bennet, to Rochdale, in Lancashire. As soon as ever we entered the town, we found the streets lined on both sides with multitudes of people, shouting, cursing, blaspheming, and gnashing upon us with their teeth. . . . We came to Bolton about five o'clock in the evening. We had no sooner entered the main street than we perceived the lions at Rochdale were lambs in comparison with those at Bolton. Such rage and bitterness I scarce ever saw before in any creatures that bore the form of men. They

* Vide *Wesley's Journal.*

followed us in full cry to the house where we went, and, as soon as we were gone in, took possession of all the avenues to it and filled the street from one end to the other. After some time the waves did not roar quite so loud. Mr. P [erronet] thought he might then venture out. They immediately closed in, threw him down, and rolled him in the mire; so that when he scrambled from them and got into the house again one could scarce tell what or who he was. When the first stone came among us through the window, I expected a shower to follow; and the rather because they had now procured a bell to call their whole forces together. But they did not design to carry on the attack at a distance, presently one ran up and told us the mob had burst into the house; he added, that they had got J [ohn] B [ennet] in the midst of them. They had, and he laid hold on the opportunity to tell them of the terrors of the Lord. Meantime, D [avid] T [aylor] engaged another part of them with smoother and softer words. Believing the time had now come, I walked down in the thickest of them. They had now filled all the rooms below. I called for a chair. The winds were hushed, and all was calm and still. My heart was filled with love, my eyes with tears, and my mouth with arguments. They were amazed, they were ashamed, they were melted down, they devoured every word. What a turn was this! O, how did God change the counsel of the old Ahithophel into foolishness, and bring all the drunkards, swearers, Sabbath-breakers, and sinners in the place to hear of his plenteous redemption."

In Bolton the following day Wesley was astir before five o'clock in the morning and addressing a crowd of anxious seekers after truth. At 9 a.m. again, he was in a field outside the town, preached to a large number of hearers, and left the vicinity of Bolton, not returning until 12th June, 1752. The change in Wesley's favour had expanded—there was ample scope, alike because of the rude reception accorded him and the paucity of places of worship. In addition to the one Methodist preaching room there were the Parish Church, the Chapel-in-the-Fields (All Saints'), and the Friends Meeting House, and Bank Street Chapel—where the drifting had made for Unitarianism—an addition of two small sanctuaries in the long period of fifty years. There was a change in another respect. George Whitfield came to Bolton about the year 1751—he had then avowed himself in sympathy with Calvinistic theories and had separated himself in the crusade from John and Charles Wesley,—and, in Dukes Alley obtained an orderly hearing from a crowd of people standing around him in the open. His sermon on that occasion, Rev. W. H. Davison has written* was one of the most wonderful George Whitfield ever delivered. "A drunkard stood up to preach behind him, and the wife of the person who lent him the field twice attempted to stab the workmen who erected the platform for him. This roused him, and he bore down all opposition by a torrent of eloquence, which awed and moved every person who listened to it. Notwithstanding this, however, some of the Boltonians got into the barn or stables, where his chaise and horses were put up, and cut both shamefully. This he called 'Satan showing his teeth.' At the close of his

* *Centenary Memorials* (p. 30-31), 1854.

sermon on this occasion, he is said to have prayed with great fervour, that on the very spot on which he stood, a temple might be raised to the honour of the Lord." Whitfield's prayer was heard. Before telling in what manner, let us remark that, as Mr. Davison further observes, land was taken 2nd May, 1751, in what is now called Hotel Street, a Meeting House was built (the site being that of the present branch of the Manchester & County Bank), and opened for divine worship. A short time previously Mr. Wesley had begun to preach against what he deemed the Calvinism of Mr. Whitfield. Rev. W. Grimshaw, formerly Vicar of Haworth, Yorks, a convert to Mr. Wesley's teachings, appears to have had the direction of the arrangements, and by the deed the property was practically vested in the Wesleys, after them to himself, and subsequently to trustees. Bennet objected, and favouring Whitfield's doctrinal views rather than John Wesley's, invited the Methodist Congregation (there were about 120 members) in the town to declare for or against them. The majority (107 of 126) expressed agreement with Bennet, and the split was complete. Bennet and his followers met first at one house and then at another—anon also in the old Meal House, situate on the easterly side of Mealhouse Lane—until Mr. Bennet obtained, in September, 1753, a lease of the very ground upon which Whitfield had preached and prayed earnestly that a place of worship might be built there (Duke's Alley). In 1754 the opening service was held in the new chapel—a large room in a building quite close to the site occupied by the present structure, and which was lighted but dimly from small leaden framed panes of glass. The Meeting Place was difficult of approach, too, owing to the tall, dark, narrow passages then surrounding it. Its principal entrance was by Grace Alley. It was understood that a portion at any rate of the existing chapel was formerly the grave yard attached to the old structure. In the words of Mr. Davison in his "Memorials," no form of Church government is indicated in the deed of conveyance, which was made under the direction of Mr. Bennet. The house is set apart for the use of a congregation of Protestant Dissenters. The only restrictions it contains are those which guard the property from being used by any other than a congregation of orthodox Dissenters. Its basis, as may be gathered from the preceding events, is Calvinistic, and its references are to the Westminster

Confession. After the secession and the opening of the chapel, Mr. Bennet's society received an important addition to their numbers and influence. These came from the original Presbyterian congregation which then worshipped in Bank Street Chapel.

Meanwhile, the "contents" at the new Wesleyan meeting-house in Hotel Street were added to, and the little church grew steadily. It was to this Meeting Place that John Wesley came on the occasion of his third visit to Bolton, on Friday, 12th June, 1752. He came through Blackburn on one of the hottest days he remembered to have felt in England. But the congregation forgot the heat, he says in his Journal, so attentive were they to what was laid before them. On Saturday, the eminent divine preached again to a crowded assembly from the words, "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden," and on Sunday he gave a third address, at the close of which he spoke of the conduct of Mr. John Bennet. He stated in effect that he knew nothing of the deeds relating to the property, and added, that he possessed no power in it still, only a clause was inserted whereby Mr. Grimshaw, Mr. Charles Wesley, and himself could appoint the preacher. That Wesley had some anxiety regarding the Meeting House is patent, for he was back in Bolton 15th June of the same year and again 7th July. The congregation was then well established. After a visit, 5th April, 1753, Wesley writes that he found the Society in Bolton just double to what it was, that the members had increased in grace no less than in number, "walking closely with God, lovingly and circumspectly with one another, and wisely toward those that are without." On revisiting Bolton 21st April, 1755, however, Mr. Wesley saw the membership had decreased. The Dukes Alley Chapel and the efforts of Mr. Bennet and his immediate supporters had drawn a number away. He was back in the month of August, 1756, and of his experience Monday, 13th April, 1761, Wesley writes in his Journal: "About noon I preached to a serious congregation at Downah Green, near Wigan, but to a far more serious one at Bolton. I find few places like this. All disputes are forgot, and the Christians do, indeed, 'love one another.' When I visited the classes on Wednesday, 15th, I did not find a disorderly walker among them; no, nor a trifler. They appeared to be, one and all,

seriously seeking salvation." And, under date, 4th April, 1765, he testifies that he rode to Bolton, and not being expected, was the more welcome. The house was crowded in the evening, and "the hearts of many filled with joy and peace in believing." The following day was Good Friday, and Wesley preached at noon and at six in the evening. "What a blessed calm has God at length given to this poor shattered Society," the holy man writes; and "for many years the men of bitter and contentious spirits were harassing them continually. But they are now sunk into quiet, formal Presbyterians; and those they have left to enjoy God and one another." Wesley returned to Bolton in the course of a week to give counsel and encouragement; and at intervals of exactly two years to 1776. On the 16th April, 1777, Mr. Wesley had a new experience—he was delighted to preach in a "New House" in Ridgway Gates. There, and adjacent to the Meeting Place erected by Bennet and his supporters, the friends at the Hotel Street sanctuary had raised an edifice. Not large enough, though, to accommodate all who came to listen to him—it was "crowded within and without." In May, 1781, Mr. Wesley speaks of the people at Bolton being "on the wing, just ready to take their flight to heaven," and three years afterwards "I think every member at Bolton does take my advice with respect to other things, as well as with respect to dress and early rising, in consequence of which they are continually increasing in number as well as in grace." In other parts of his Journal, also, Wesley refers with intense satisfaction to the condition of the people at Bolton, and to the hearty welcome he received when preaching (in Barnaby Fold) at Wingates, Westhoughton. What a wonderful difference as compared with the melancholy kind of greeting accorded to him at the Market Cross in 1748! To complete our references to Wesley's visits to Bolton, he was at Ridgway Gates 4th April, 1785 (he preached the day afterwards at Wingates), and he makes the entries subsequently:—

Friday, April 5th, 1786.—I went on as swiftly as I could through Manchester, Wigan, and Bolton.

Sunday, 16th (Easter Day).—I crossed over to Warrington, where, having read prayers, preached, and administered the Lord's Supper, I hastened back to Bolton. The house was crowded, the more because of five hundred and fifty children who are taught in our Sunday Schools. Such an army of them got about me when I came out of the chapel that I could scarce disengage myself from them.

In July, 1787, Mr. Wesley passed through Bolton to Manchester. He stated that 800 children were then being taught in

the Ridgway Gates Sunday School by about 80 teachers; that about 100 boys and girls were taught to sing, and that so well that, all singing together, there seemed to be but one voice. A number of children hovering around the house in which he was staying, in the evening, he desired forty or fifty of them to enter and sing "Vital spark of heavenly flame." While a few could not sing because overcome with emotion, the others sung so beautifully that Wesley believed their singing "could not be equalled in the King's Chapel."

Saturday, April 19th, 1788.—We went on to Bolton, where I preached in the evening in one of the most elegant houses in the kingdom to one of the liveliest congregations, and this I must avow, there is not such a set of singers in any of the Methodist congregations in the three kingdoms. There cannot be, for we have near a hundred such trebles, boys and girls, selected out of our Sunday Schools, and accurately taught, as are not to be found together in any chapel, cathedral, or music room within the four seas, besides, the spirit with which they all sing, and the beauty of many of them so suits the melody, that I defy any to exceed it, except the singing of angels in our Father's House.*

Sunday, 20th.—At eight and at one, the house was thoroughly filled. About three I met between nine hundred and a thousand of the children belonging to our Sunday Schools. I never saw such a sight before. They were all exactly clean as well as plain in their apparel. All were serious and well-behaved. Many, both boys and girls, had as beautiful faces as I believe England, or Europe, can afford. When they all sing together, and none of them out of tune, the melody was beyond that of any theatre. And, what is best of all, many of them truly fear God, and some rejoice in His salvation. These are a pattern to all the town. Their usual diversion is to visit the poor and sick (sometimes six, or eight, or ten together), to exhort, comfort, and pray with them. Frequently ten or more of them get together to sing and pray by themselves: and sometimes thirty or forty; and are so earnestly engaged alternately singing, praying, and crying, that they know not how to part.

Saturday, May 10th, 1790.—In the evening I preached in the lovely house at Bolton, to one of the loveliest congregations in England, who by patient continuance in well-doing have turned scorn and hatred into general esteem and good-will.

This was John Wesley's last visit to Bolton. He had passed the age of four score years, and one cannot but wonder that roughing it as he had done from his early manhood, now here, now there, preaching in winter, as in summer weather—cold and stormy it sometimes was when he was in Bolton—outside as well as inside buildings, and amid all the discomforts attendant on strange abodes and forbidding receptions, he had lived and laboured so long. He had, indeed, a very dangerous illness in the year 1753—one, during which he wrote for an inscription upon his tombstone "Here lieth the body of John Wesley, a brand picked out of the burning, who died of consumption in the fifty-first year of his age; not leaving, after his debts are paid, ten pound behind him; praying God to be merciful to me an unprofitable servant." He survived to write

*During this visit to Bolton, Mr. Wesley, Mr. Christopher Hopper, and George Eskrick, walked arm in arm down Deansgate to the Parish Church, and there attended morning service, as was the custom of the Methodists of those days. They did not often hold their meeting in Church hours. "At eight and at one the house was thoroughly filled, but it would be empty and shut during the time of morning prayers at the Parish Church."—*Musgrave's Origin of Methodism in Bolton*, 1865 (p. 32).

in 1788, "I this day enter on my eighty-sixth year. And what cause have I to praise God as for a thousand spiritual blessings also! How little have I suffered yet by 'the rust of numerous years?'" Three years after this, and eight months subsequent to that last visit to Bolton, the hero was stricken by a sickness, which ended in his death 2nd March, 1791.

In the references to our town, in his Journals, Wesley really tells the outline story of Methodism in Bolton for upwards of forty-two years. He saw it struggling into life, he was spared to preach to what were among the largest and "loveliest" of Methodist congregations, met in a "lovely" house, and where was singing the equal of which could only be found among the "angels in our Father's house." Wesley might have told much more, of course. Unquestionably he would in conversation, if not in writing. The "New House" of which he speaks, and in which he so delighted, is one of brick in Ridgway Gates. In 1891 the building underwent renovation, celebration services at the close of the year being largely attended. The late Mr. J. Musgrave informs us* that the first deed of the Chapel is dated 1787, and that the names of the Trustees were: Thomas Smith, of Sharples; Christopher Hopper, George Eskrick, Richard Cocker, Joseph Whittaker, Thomas Smith, of Great Bolton; and William Grime; other names are attached in pencil to the trust deed, but are not signed. A revival mission, conducted by Mr. John Furze, in 1762, had quickened and increased the Bolton Society, closer attention was paid to the town by Conference, especially from the year 1765, when Lancashire was made into a circuit, while in 1770 the Connexional Funds were drawn upon for the benefit of Bolton for the first time. Lancashire had then been sub-divided, Bolton being in the Liverpool Circuit. It was in 1784 that the Bolton Wesleyan Circuit was established, Rev. Christopher Hopper, whose name appears in the first trust deed, being, with Rev. William Eells, the minister appointed.†

* *Origin of Methodism in Bolton* (*p.* 24).

† The late Mr. J. Musgrave says in his little work:—"Concerning Christopher Hopper a volume might be written. Perhaps no one living knows how greatly Bolton Methodism is indebted to him. During his itinerancy he was repeatedly appointed to the Bolton Circuit; and when he became a Supernumerary he chose it for his home. He then built the house on the right-hand side of Ridgway Gates Chapel, and there resided till the day of his death. He was a Boanerges, a son of thunder; his word was with power, and stout-hearted sinners trembled from time to time under the awful and alarming message his Lord gave him to deliver. He feared the face of no man; he declared the whole counsel of God with clearness and energy wherever he came, and the Lord crowned the labours of His servant with great success. His grave may be found in St. George's Churchyard."

Additional details anent the Rev. Christopher Hopper are available, but we must hasten on. Neither is it essential to give the names of his successors to the present day, seeing that the principle of itinerancy associated with the Wesleyan ministry precludes, except in rare cases, any extended connection with a particular circuit. Of Rev. Samuel Bradburn, appointed in 1804 to Bolton Circuit, and who discharged in his day the offices of Secretary and President of Conference, it should be said, in the words of Dr. Adam Clarke, that no adequate idea can be formed of his powers as an orator, and that few if any men of his time could be found to compare with him. Mr. Bradburn was minister in Bolton when the present commodious chapel at the junction of Bridge Street and St. George's Street was opened by the Methodists, 30th September, 1804. The sermon then preached by Mr. Bradburn was afterwards printed and published under the title "God shining forth from between the Cherubim," and was based on Psalm i., 2, "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." Upon the completion of the chapel in Bridge Street the edifice in Ridgway Gates was denominated "the old building," and is so named to the present by not a few. With regard to the Sunday school at Ridgway Gates adverted to in such terms of wonder and admiration by John Wesley in his Journals, we have the authority of the late Mr. Musgrave and others for saying that in 1785 some of the leaders of the Wesleyan Methodist Society in Bolton wishing to begin a Sabbath School, as class meetings and cottage prayer meetings were constantly disturbed by great numbers of rough, uncultivated boys and girls—children whom it was desired to teach better ways—one was opened in Ridgway Gates Chapel. The beginning was with five scholars only, but in less than twelve months time there were above 500. How the school grew and to what state of perfection it was brought before John Wesley's death is best seen from his reference to it in the extract given from his Journal in previous pages.*

* An extract from the rules of Refugee School (Methodist Free Church) Hanover Street, under date 1864, reads:—The Wesleyan Methodists of Bolton previous to the year 1777 met for worship in a small chapel, situate in Hotel-street; and in that year they opened another chapel in Ridgway Gates. The time for worship was at 5 or 6 and 8 o'clock in the morning, at one o'clock in the afternoon, and at six o'clock in the evening. These hours were so selected to avoid concussion with the time that Divine Service was celebrated at the Parish Church and the Chapel i'th' Fields (now called All Saints' Church). It is on record that in June, 1785, some pious persons collected a number of children together on the Sabbath Day, and took them to the chapel in Ridgway Gates,

The late Mr. J. Musgrave estimated that by the dispute and separation, 200 members of Society and about 1000 Sunday School scholars were lost to Ridgway Gates and Bridge Street Wesleyan Chapels and school.

In the year 1850 the schools in All Saints' Street and connected with Bridge Street Wesleyan Chapel were opened for Sunday School purposes, and were for many years utilised for day school purposes. Schools have been built in association with every Wesleyan Chapel erected since the one in Ridgway Gates was inaugurated. Like the edifices connected with the Establishment they have been raised from small beginnings. Cottages have been utilised in many cases for first schools and chapel services, and afterwards school buildings for divine worship also. In every rural township in the Bolton Union, it may be said, is to be found a Wesleyan school or chapel, or both. The associations for the spiritual and material welfare of the people are numerous and in full activity—an incalculably great work is being carried on by devoted bands of lay helpers.

On the 19th November, 1819, Fletcher Street Chapel was opened; Bradshawgate Chapel, 8th November, 1849; Park Street Chapel, 4th March, 1863; Halliwell Road Chapel, 18th August, 1869, and others have followed.

The first important section of the seceders from the Wesleyan Methodists on the death of John Wesley were those known as members of the Methodist New Connexion. In Bolton the nucleus of a congregation was formed under a Rev.

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where they were taught to read and write, besides the principles of the Christian religion. This was generally thought to be the first Sunday School ever established in Bolton, until the Old Parish Church was taken down in 1866, when a small "ticket of merit" was found beneath the flooring boards in that portion of the nave occupied by the scholars. This ticket bore a printed text; "Keep thy foot when thou goest into the house of God.—*Ecc.* 5., 1.;" and on it also were written the words: "No. 7, A., Augt. 22nd, 1774. Ann Barton." The Rev. Edward Whitehead, M.A., who was then vicar of Bolton, is supposed to have thus inscribed it; the writing corresponding with his well-known hand. However, the School in Ridgway Gates flourished, the number of scholars rapidly increased, and it was computed by a scholar attending in 1817, that in that year there would be some 2000 scholars and teachers connected therewith. A resolution was published in the Conference minutes in 1827, directing that teaching to write on the Sabbath should be suppressed in all Wesleyan Schools. On the completion of Bridge Street Chapel in 1805, a number of scholars belonging to Ridgway Gates School were requested to walk in procession to that Chapel. This the senior scholars objected to. In order to bring the School more immediately under the jurisdiction of the preachers and leaders, they compiled a code of new rules, which declared that the school must in future be governed by them. This the teachers and a large number of scholars regarded as a violation of their just rights. The dispute increased to such a degree, that sooner than adopt the new rules, the teachers, accompanied by about 1300 scholars left the Old School on the 29th June, 1834, and erected a chapel, with schoolrooms, in Hanover-street, Moor-lane, and assumed the denomination of Wesleyan Refugee Society.

Mr. Kilham, in Howell Croft, in the year 1797, and the company having sensibly increased the plain brick erection now known as Christ Church, Blackburn Street, was erected and occupied for chapel and school purposes.* It was termed by many "Ebenezer" Chapel. Rev. Thomas Berry was minister of the congregation in the year 1844, when he and a number of his people declared for the Established Church. Mr. Berry was duly received into the Church of England, and his adherents and he remained at Blackburn Street, the building being consecrated as Christ Church, whilst a Methodist New Connexion school and meeting place was opened in Lever Street, and was occupied until the year 1852, the formal opening taking place 14th November. The chapel and school at Daubhill and the school at Brownlow Fold are offshoots. In the year 1810 came the rent in Methodism known as Primitive Methodism. After fluctuating for a time in Bolton, it found as a centre an edifice of brick in Newport Street. This was in 1822, and the building (now used by Mr. John Kenyon, furniture remover and potato and straw dealer, for the purposes of his business) was taken for religious worship until 1865, when the Baptists agreed to the transfer of the building held by them in Moor Lane, the Baptists going to the Temperance Hall, St. George's Road, and the British School, All Saints' Street (rented as a Sunday School), until the completion of handsome premises in St. George's Road. The first chapel in Moor Lane was built upon the site of the old one, and opened an the 22nd August, 1877. The Primitive Methodists have extended their borders, the chapel and school premises in

* "Prior to the year 1841 the building in Blackburn Street, now known as Christ Church, was the assembling place of a number of the Rev. Alexander Kilham's followers—hence their appellation 'Kilhamites,' and afterwards 'New Connexion Methodists.' By that religious sect the building was erected in 1818, and named 'Ebenezer Chapel.' Consequent upon the divided opinions of the pastor, trustees, aud worshippers, aggravated by a pecuniary deficit, the Chapel was disposed of by the responsible parties in 1841, the Rev. Thomas Berry (the pastor) urging that course was the best. It was licensed for the worship of the Church of England by permission of the Right Rev. John Bird Sumner, Lord Bishop of Chester (of whose diocese Bolton then formed a part), influenced by the Rev. Canon Slade, M.A., Vicar of Bolton. Mr. Berry was ordained and inducted as perpetual curate, and most of the former congregation were acknowledged as members of 'the Establishment.' On May 2nd, in the same year, Canon Slade preached the opening sermon. The extraordinary transfer of that Chapel with its parson and people, may be considered as a noteworthy event in the ecclesiastical history of the town, and naturally gave rise to much contemporaneous comment *pro* and *con* through the medium of the press, and a paragraph went the round of nearly all the London and provincial newspapers with the startling heading 'Church *versus* Chapel: Conversion of a whole congregation.' . . It was not until 1844 that Christ Church was consecrated, and the ecclesiastical district formed."—*Bolton Bibliography and Jottings of Book Lore*, by Jas. C. Scholes.

Higher Bridge Street and Egyptian Street being especially noticeable. To quote from a Manchester District report of fifty years ago, under the head "Bolton," when the Bolton membership was 356:—"The cause of our prosperity is 'God with us,' and our labours join together in striving for the faith once delivered to the Saints. This circuit has made Bury into a separate circuit."

Another secession from the Wesleyan body in Bolton was that which led to the formation in Bolton of the Independent Methodists. In the *Independent Methodist Magazine* for May, 1824, was printed an article on the origin of Independent Methodism in Bolton, which states that the year 1819 was a period of much affliction and trial to the members of the Wesleyan Connexion, "on account of the frequent introduction of political matters into the pulpit, and the rigorous exactions made upon the poor for their contributions." Rev. Thomas Hill was superintendent minister in Bolton at the time, and it is averred that his conduct being uncongenial to a number of worshippers at Ridgway Gates, they were induced to withdraw and form themselves into the "Bolton Independent Methodist Church." How the Church met first in a cottage in Morris Street, Turton Street, subsequently in Grime Street (where, in 1822, accession was made to the number of members by seceders from the Methodist New Connexion denomination), and in the King Street Chapel, and how a school and chapel were founded in Folds Road, upon the site occupied by the present sacred and handsome edifice, has been exhaustively told by Mr. Stephen Rothwell.* The Folds Road Chapel and School, and Noble Street and Chalfont Street Chapels are proofs of the devotion and zeal of Independent Methodist Church members. Of the United Methodist Free Churches in Bolton it will be sufficient to say, in addition to what has been said on a previous page of this chapter as to the origin of the secession from Ridgway Gates, that before the Hanover Street Chapel was opened, devotional meetings were held in rooms in Lodge Vale and Hanover Street. In 1844, Hope Chapel, occupying the site of the present St. Paul's Church, Moor Lane, was entered upon by a number of those connected with Hanover Street Chapel, thence the worshippers went, in 1846, to the chapel in Bowker's

* *Memorials of Folds Road Chapel*, by Stephen Rothwell, 1887.

Row, and were for years regarded as belonging to the Wesleyan Reform Association. On 29th November, 1857, a number of the members at the United Methodist Free Church, Hanover Street, opened the chapel premises in Albert Place, Back Lane (now Clarence Street), then best known as Nimmo's Chapel, from the fact of the Rev. David Nimmo ministering there. Mr. Nimmo was an agent of the Town Mission, and on coming to Bolton succeeded by dint of perseverance in forming a small congregation, who worshipped in the Temperance Hall, before erecting the chapel in Albert Place. Mr. Nimmo was ordained in Bolton in the year 1843. The premises were re-built in 1881. In 1880 the congregation and scholars meeting in Bowker's Row joined with those at Albert Place. The building in the former thoroughfare has been taken over for public sales and entertainment rooms.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

NONCONFORMITY IN BOLTON. (III.)

The Ministry at Duke's Alley Chapel—Extensions—Dr. Robert Simpson—Rev. Joseph Sowdon—Further Improvements—St. George's Road Congregational Church—Vicissitudes at Duke's Alley—A Petition for Dismissal—Mawdsley Street Independent Chapel and Sunday Schools—Rev. William Jones—Rose Hill Chapel: The "Dumplingites"—Rev. Robert Best—Struggles of the Fathers of Presbyterianism in Bolton: They Build a Chapel—Collapse and Revival—Removal to Bowker's Row—The Baptists: A Separate Church at Bolton—Evil Days—A Successful Effort—The "Scotch Chapel" Rented—A New Edifice—Claremont Chapel—Baptist Ministers—Bolton New Church Society—Roman Catholicism.

TO resume the thread of the story, broken on page 360, Mr. John Bennet did not settle in Bolton. His work still lay in itinerancy, though his wife and he never lost sight of the congregation founded by him in this town. On the 24th May, 1759, John Bennet died, in the prime of life—he was aged 44 years only—and was interred in Chinley Chapel Yard. But the worshippers who had listened to him at Duke's Alley continued to meet. They had for pastors in succession: Mr. James (a friend of George Whitfield), Rev. John Whitford, another admirer of Whitfield, and Rev. James Wraith, a native of Elland, in Yorkshire, who

did not hesitate to take off his coat and assist in the construction of galleries in his chapel to provide increased accommodation. His ministry in Bolton extended from 1772 to 1782, when he resigned, owing to "the loss of one of his deacons, the death of another valuable member," and because of extreme views "which some of the people entertained and constantly obtruded, in reference to one or two articles." Rev. Robert Simpson was the next minister who accepted a call to Duke's Alley. He was ordained 2nd October, 1782, and at once entered upon his duties at Bolton, where he remained for nine years. Rev. W. H. Davison says, in his "Memorials": "He preached with great fervour and energy, both in his own pulpit and in the surrounding towns and villages, and his labours were crowned with the most abundant success. The congregation gradually increased, and many persons were savingly impressed." The Church was again enlarged during Dr. Simpson's ministry (he had proceeded to the degree of D.D.), and on his resignation for removal to London, he left behind him many friends. From the year 1791 to 1797 Rev. William Maurice, from Sheffield, was in charge at Duke's Alley. He accepted a call to London at the end of this term, and the congregation was without any resident minister for upwards of four years. In the year 1801, Rev. Jos. Sowdon, who had served at Sowerby, became pastor, the number of worshippers—which had naturally decreased—was augmented, and extensions were made to the chapel, the necessary funds being raised by great exertions on the part of Mr. Sowdon. In 1813, however, he accepted a call to Blackburn, where he died in the year 1822. Various ministers have settled for a season at Duke's Alley Chapel since 1813, Rev. W. H. Davison, who came in July of 1852, as a young man from Cheshunt College, being the most prominent of them. The year 1863 saw the practical completion of a scheme of which Mr. Davison was, it may be said, the head, namely, the opening of the artistically designed and substantial edifice at the corner of St. George's Road and Knowsley Street, 3rd April, 1863. The foundation stone of the sanctuary was laid 18th April, 1862. Mr. Davison was duly appointed to preside over the new congregation, many of whom followed him from the less salubrious atmosphere and dingier surroundings of Duke's Alley. Mr. Davison remained

in Bolton until the Autumn of 1874. He was followed in March, 1875, by Rev. C. A. Berry, who in turn resigned, proceeding to Wolverhampton. Rev. J. R. Wolstenholme, M.A., is his successor.

Since Mr. Sowdon's removal from Duke's Alley further improvements have been made from time to time, including the erection of a gallery and pulpit in the chapel in 1824; a new front to the edifice was put in during the year 1840, at a cost of £2,000, the interior was thoroughly renovated in the year 1869, and the church, which had become greatly reduced, was re-constituted, services being held meanwhile in the schools, built in 1840, belonging to the chapel. Centenary celebration services were conducted in November, 1854. Thus the present building is far different to the erection first occupied—successive enlargements have made a striking distinction to the original; absorbing, at the same time, the surface of the old graveyard, itself the site of an orchard. Since 1869, again, the church has known vicissitudes of fortune, though to-day it is healthy under the resident minister, Rev. B. J. Harker, F.S.A.

It is not a matter for surprise, all things taken into account, that the Duke's Alley Church should have been in distress more than once. The situation has always militated against real power and success, being, as it is, behind main streets, and having in the immediate neighbourhood a class of individuals as residents who are certainly not chapel goers. True, Ridgway Gates, which is more or less Duke's Alley, has been the seat of tremendous influence, but we must remember there never has been Wesley nor Wesleyanism at Duke's Alley, while Wesleyan Methodism itself has sought more congenial centres, leaving Ridgway Gates premises mainly to Sunday School purposes. Think, too, how the sides of Independency and the congregations at Duke's Alley have been smitten and riven by secessions in the early part of the century, and later, by the milder growths which sought lodgment at Mawdsley Street, St. George's Road, Rose Hill, Blackburn Road, and Derby Street. A man must be staunch indeed, faithful to the old love and to old associations, when he stands by the battered ship, sailing in dark troubled waters, rather than stepping on the deck and entering the cabins of the statelier vessel, launched upon calmer, clearer, and brighter seas. But to the first church really

formed from the loins of the parent at Duke's Alley—the church that held by the distinctive principles inculcated there. This was what became known as the Mawdsley Street Church. Mr. Davison says in his "Memorials:"

> On the 22nd of December, 1807, five members of the Church at Duke's Alley requested their dismissal that they might form themselves into a different Church for the spread of the Gospel—this was sent them in the following words: "The brethren, John Smith, William Southworth, John Reily, Richard Gregson, and William Titterington, having by a note bearing date December 22nd, 1807, requested our Pastor to stop the Church this day, in order to procure them their dismission, with a view to form themselves into a separate Church. In compliance with their request, we dismiss them accordingly, wishing them the Lord's presence in every Scriptural undertaking. Signed by order of the Church—Joseph Sowdon, pastor; John Turner, John Ritchie, John Haslam, John Hart, Nathl. Lassell, Robt. Rutherford, deacons." On the evening of January 13th, 1808, the above-named persons, who were thus dismissed, assembled publicly for the purpose of giving themselves to each other in the Lord. The Rev. Samuel Bradley, of Manchester, presided, and formed them into a Christian Church. He first delivered a discourse on the nature of the Gospel Church, and then having received the pledge of their union and commended them to God in prayer, he delivered an address on the duties arising out of the relations which Church members sustain.*

The early meetings of the new church were for six weeks in the Sessions Room, Mealhouse Lane (now Queen Anne Inn), and in the Old Cloth Hall. The church membership increased, and in the early part of 1808, the Mawdsley Street Independent Chapel, towards which Mr. Thomas Greenall advanced £2000, was opened for public worship. Sunday School services were inaugurated in a weaving shed in a yard owned by Mr. Pitfield, in Old Acres, and in the cellar of a warehouse occupied by Mr. Thomas Greenall, in Blackhorse Street, the girls meeting in the former and the boys in the latter, until the building of premises upon the south-east side of Mawdsley Street and opposite the chapel, save that the lads were gathered into a cottage at the west of the chapel for some time prior to the opening in 1818 of the new school premises. These were re-built in 1875, and formally opened February, 1876. Rev. William Jones, of Hoxton Academy, was ordained to the new Church 3rd September, 1808, and remained with them 34 years—until death claimed him 19th October, 1842. A marble tablet raised to his memory in the old chapel is still to be seen in the new and nobler edifice. It was while Mr. Jones was minister at Mawdsley Street that the foundation was laid for the present chapel and school at Rose Hill. In the year 1841, a body locally known as the "Dumplingites," who were looked upon as Socialists, relinquished their hold on premises at the top of Nelson Street and in Lever Street, and it

* The first entry in the books of the Mawdsley Street Church is to the same effect. The writing is that of Rev. William Jones, whom Dr. Simpson, formerly of Duke's Alley, described as "a Boanerges who would lift off the roof."

was occupied as a branch school for Mawdsley Street. In the year 1864 the building was demolished and the present chapel was erected. Rev. J. D. Elliott, of the Western College; Rev. W. L. Brown, M.A., of Liskeard, and Rev. Jas. R. Jones,* of Kilsby, were pastors at Mawdsley Street in succession; and 4th April, 1852, was commenced the pastorate of Rev. Robert Best, of Kirkham, a man who was never weary in well-doing in the walks of true religion, morality, charity, and education. Mr. Best's ministry at Mawdsley Street terminated only with his death, 3rd August, 1887. He was unquestionably one of the most popular ministers of his day, not in Bolton alone but in Lancashire; that he endeared himself to the hearts of his congregation is shown by a costly mural tablet placed to his memory in Mawdsley Street Chapel, A charmingly written biography† of the late Mr. Best was published in the year 1888, from the pen of his esteemed son-in-law, Rev. James Johnston, one of a number of Mawdsley Street scholars and congregation who have gone out to labour in Christ's vineyard. Rev. H. W. Turner, B.A., who received an invitation while in the ministry at Peterborough, is Rev. Robert Best's successor.

Prior to Messrs. Smith, Southworth, Reily, Gregson, and Titterington founding another church in Bolton, from Duke's Alley, a number of those attending the Calvinistic meeting house petitioned for the formation of a separate body. They were Scotchmen, and, by predilection, Presbyterians. They had gathered at Duke's Alley as they settled in Bolton, one by one or family by family, and at the close of the Eighteenth Century they were a goodly number. With the learned Dr. Simpson, himself of Scotch birth and training, they were perfectly satisfied, and there is no doubt that had he continued his ministrations in Bennet's chapel they would have maintained their connection with it for a longer period. Dr. Simpson left Bolton, and when young Sowdon came as minister their attachment became,

*Subsequent to leaving Mawdsley Street, Mr. Brown accepted an invitation to minister at Albert Place Chapel, where he was joined by a number of his old Bolton friends. The chapel in Albert Place was afterwards vacated in favour of the Temperance Hall, but it was re-occupied in 1853 by others, who seceded from Mawdsley Street in 1851, owing to a purely local dispute anent the continuance in office of Rev. J. R. Jones, and who had gone in the first instance to the Hope Chapel, in Moor Lane, already mentioned in this chapter. Rev. J. R. Jones, spoken of above, accepted an invitation to become their pastor, 25th December, 1851, and so continued till 31st December, 1854.

†*Memoirs of the Rev. Robert Best, by the Rev. J. Johnston*, 1888.

naturally, perhaps, cooler. They consulted among themselves, therefore, confessed to some yearning for a church of their own upon the lines affected by their fathers, constituted themselves a Presbyterian congregation, and in the year 1803 built a chapel upon what is now the site of St. Paul's Church, at the junction of Moor Lane, Deansgate, and Gartside Street, and which has been referred to more than once as the Scotch Presbyterian Chapel. In the month of April, 1805, Rev. James Smith, of Aberdeen, was ordained in Bolton as first minister. Mr. Smith's connection with the local Presbyterians was a very brief one. Collapse threatened the newly constituted church, and had it not been for the encouragement of the Presbytery, who had fully recognised it, something very serious would have happened. The members were buoyed by hope, and deemed themselves so strong that in 1809 they resolved on inviting Rev. Geo. Lawson, of Selkirk; on the 18th October of that year he was appointed to the spiritual charge at Moor Lane. He stood at the helm for about five years, and then relinquished the post owing to the great difficulty of keeping a congregation together; lack of enthusiasm and insufficiency of monetary support occasioned the closing of the chapel as a Presbyterian place of worship not long afterwards. That the chapel was occupied by secessionists from Bank Street Chapel, and was subsequently taken over by other religious bodies, has been previously shown. Scotchmen in Bolton did not like being beaten—what Caledonian does? The more ardent of them for the establishment of a separate congregation promoted lectures and addresses at intervals, principally in the Shambles preaching room, and refused to resign all trust of forming a Presbyterian church on a solid basis. Their hearts were rejoiced, therefore, when in 1837 the Presbytery of the Established Church made arrangements for founding a mission or station in Bolton, and the Rev. William Douglas, a tried worker, was despatched to the town, and opened a meeting room in the Little Bolton Town Hall (now a public branch library). Dr. Ralphs was one of a trio appointed to inquire into the religious needs and necessities at Bolton. His reports were so unmistakably in favour of church and school building, supported as they were by representations of the growing body of Scotch Presbyterian worshippers, and promises of pecuniary help, that at the latter end of 1844, Mr. David Magill,

who was really carrying on the work relinquished by Mr. Douglas owing to bad health, and sustained for four years by Rev. Jas. Cleland, was ordained as minister in Bolton, land on the west side of Bowker's Row was purchased, and on the 8th January, 1845, the foundation stone of the present edifice was laid. Seventeen months afterwards the substantial church was consecrated and dedicated to St. Andrew. New and handsome school premises, built upon the site of the first school, adjoining the church, were opened December 9, 1890. In all, eight ministers have officiated at St. Andrews, the seventh being the Rev. Samuel Prenter, B.A,, who left Bolton in July, 1881, for Dublin; and the eighth, Rev. T. B. Johnstone. A second church was established in Bradford Street, but had a fitful existence only.

Having dealt with the oldest of the Nonconformist denominations in the town, and with all the important branches that have sprung from them, let us observe that in the year 1777, Rev. John Hirst, pastor of the Baptist Church in Bacup, and who was known as the "Rossendale Baptist," visited Bolton frequently to preach the Gospel.* In August of that year Rev. John Bowser, of Sunderland, accepted an invitation to settle in Bolton, but remained only until the end of 1782, when he was recognised as pastor of the Baptist Chapel, Shipley, Yorks. Mr. Hirst renewed his visits to Bolton on Mr. Bowser's retirement, and in course of time ten persons were baptised, and were united with the church at Bacup until the formation of a separate church in Bolton—an event that took place in the year 1793. A small chapel (previously mentioned) had then been erected by them and their friends at the bottom of King Street, the pulpit of which was supplied by Mr. Hirst and other ministers until 1795. Rev. James Hargreaves (author of the "Life of John Hirst") was, 29th June, 1796, ordained pastor, and so remained for a period of three years. He accepted an invitation to Ogden, and the church decreased to such an extent that, in 1806, the chapel passed from the hands of the Baptists, and nothing worthy of record as regards them occurred until the year 1817, when the Yorkshire and Lancashire Itinerant Society

* The writer acknowledges the kindness of Mr. William Taylor, Chorley Old Road, and one of the most prominent of local Baptists, in supplying details as to the rise and progress of the Baptist denomination in Bolton.

instituted an inquiry as to the spiritual condition of Bolton and district. In 1818 the Society determined to make another effort to plant a church in this town, and 27th June, in pursuance of the arrangement, Messrs. W. C. Bottomly and John Paul, who were then students at Horton College, Bradford, arrived in Bolton, with letters of introduction to John Lum, Esq.* (cotton spinner, one of the trustees of King Street Chapel), with the object of gaining his assistance in procuring a room and commencing public religious services, but they did not succeed in obtaining one. Consequently they went to Astley Bridge, where they obtained a place of meeting, and there gathered together a small congregation. In the year 1819 the "Scotch Chapel," previously occupied by the Presbyterians, was offered for sale, and, with the intention of purchasing it (if possible), they entered into negotiations, and were permitted to occupy it at a rental of £25 per annum, until such time as a sale was effected. It was opened by the Baptists for public worship May, 1819, when sermons were preached by Rev. Isaac Mann, M.A., of Shipley. On the following Sunday Rev. William Colcroft began his ministry in Bolton. He laboured successfully, and, with the aid of a few friends, soon gathered a congregation, including a few who had attended the services at Astley Bridge. A church consisting of nineteen members was formed 11th October, 1821, and on the following day Mr. Colcroft was ordained pastor. At these services Rev. W. Steadman, of Horton College, officiated, with the assistance of Rev. W. Stevens, Rochdale, and John Jackson, Hebden Bridge. It was immediately after these services the chapel was offered for sale by auction by the Trustees, and was purchased by the Unitarians, to the great disappointment of the Baptists, and they at once took steps for entering into possession. The Baptists were therefore compelled to remove to temporary premises in the Cloth Hall until another place of worship could be obtained. In the following year, 1822, the chapel in Moor Lane was built and opened for Divine service. One of the first efforts after opening the chapel was the commencement of the Sunday School in connection therewith. Mr. Colcroft, after seven years' ministry in Bolton, removed to Bramley, near Leeds, in the year 1825.

* Mrs. Lum was the founder of the charity bearing her name and also of the Alms-houses in Little Bolton.

For a considerable period the Baptist Church in Bolton was supplied by neighbouring ministers and others until the settlement of the Rev. William Fraser, who also came from Horton College, 30th September, 1830. During his ministry, which closed in 1842, many improvements were made and the school was enlarged. The congregations were increased, and a branch school erected at Astley Bridge (which has been followed by a prosperous church). Rev. James Fyfe succeeded Mr. Fraser, 16th April, 1843, and was ordained June 9th, the same year. An interesting event occurred October 12th, 1844. The chapel premises were first vested in trustees, and as soon as the deed was completed, securities for over £500 debt secured upon the premises, owing to Messrs. Broadley, Brogden, and Cousins, of Bradford, and to Mr. Jeremiah Ingham, were generously cancelled, and, with their full consent, they were publicly burnt in the presence of the meeting then assembled. All present heartily joined in singing the doxology. Mr. Fyfe resigned April, 1846, and there followed, at comparatively short intervals, four ministers. After them came Rev. Thos. W. Handford, of Rawdon College, near Leeds. This was in July, 1863. Subsequent to Mr. Handford's settlement, the chapel in Moor Lane was found too small, and on 5th November, 1865, the closing service was held, and the congregation began to meet in the Temperance Hall. School operations were conducted in the old chapel, however, until the close of 1866, when, in consequence of the building being purchased by the Primitive Methodists, the scholars were accommodated in the British School, All Saints' Street. They continued to meet here, pending the completion of imposing chapel and school premises in St. George's Road, the corner stone of which was laid by Mr. Thos. Barnes, M.P., 8th July, 1868. The chapel (Claremont) was opened for Divine service Thursday, 2nd December, 1869, the total sum collected at the series being brought up to £400. Exactly three years after the opening of the chapel, Mr. Handford succeeded Rev. Dr. Brock at Bloomsbury Chapel, London; Rev. E. M. C. Botterill, who followed Mr. Handford in Bolton, went to Canada, February, 1873, and for eighteen months ensuing the pastorate was vacant. On the 21st May, 1876, Rev. Jas. F. Smythe, of Canterbury, was received as pastor, and in

1878 the balance of a debt of £3000 upon the chapel and school premises was wiped out; £1000 being received at a bazaar in the Town Hall. In the year 1879, a branch chapel was built at Farnworth. On 31st December, 1882, Mr. Smythe's ministry in Bolton terminated, and 29th August, 1883, Rev. Geo. H. Heynes, of the Baptist College, Bristol, was accepted as minister at Claremont. Zion Baptist Chapel, St. John Street, has since been opened, and the Strict Baptists occupy a new chapel in Dorset Street.

We find from a booklet issued in 1888* that there was a small company of Swedenborgians in Bolton, in the year 1781, that for about fifteen years the Society "passed through alternate states of gloom and sunshine, but steadily held on its course, gradually increasing in strength and numbers until it settled in Bury Street, where for the prolonged period of 47 years the Society laboured" in spreading the doctrines of the New Church in the town and neighbourhood. To the late Mr. Samuel Dawson is due the building up and consolidation of the society. The gloomy rooms in Bury Street were left to the people denominating themselves "The Latter Day Saints." The corner stone of the present edifice, on the west side of Higher Bridge Street, was laid 8th May, 1844, and the opening services inaugurated Friday, 25th October, in the same year. Commodious schools are attached to the sanctuary. In his day Samuel Crompton, of the Hall-i'th'-Wood, inventor of the Spinning Mule, was connected with the New Society Church in Bolton. Rev. Thos. Mackereth was the immediate predecessor of Rev. J. T. Freeth, the present minister. None of the ministers have made a prolonged stay in Bolton.

There are a few other chapels and meeting rooms of recent date to which we need not refer specially at this point.

Of Roman Catholicism in Bolton little need be said. It has grown very quietly but withal steadily, and is now a real power in the borough. A hundred years ago a man dared scarcely proclaim himself a Roman Catholic in Bolton, so bitter was the popular sentiment against the principles of his Church. Not without fear and trepidation was the first room opened in the Old Acres, and behind where the Balmoral Hotel now stands, but the Mission was conducted without ostentation, and being in an

* *History of the Bolton New Church Society*, by James Dakeyne.

humble and out-of-the-way building no great attraction was created. At the opening of the present century public bitterness was far less marked, and a site having been chosen upon the Bolton Moor, a Chapel was commenced and duly opened for worship. The Chapel was dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, and stands in Pilkington Street. For several years interments were conducted in the adjoining ground. The congregation assembling in the severely plain brick building increased, and ultimately Schools were added. In the year 1847, the exertions of Father Dowdall, who was at Pilkington Street, were rewarded by the opening of the structure in Palace Street, off St. George's Road, built as a School and Mission Room for the Little Bolton District, and new Schools have since been erected. Rev. Edmund Carter, Senior Priest at SS. Peter and Paul's, was a remarkably active man, and one of commanding will. It was owing to his enterprise and determination that the well-built edifice now standing in Great Moor Street—and not many yards away from the place where Roman Catholic Services were first held in Bolton—was opened on St. Patrick's Day, 1861. A Mission had been established upon the site, in what was formerly a comb making establishment. The Mission languished, in a sense, prior to new life being imparted by Father Carter. The School attached to St. Patrick's is off Great Moor Street. The School building had been sadly required, a large room in Carleton warehouse buildings, off Breightmet Street, being totally inadequate to the demands of that part of the town. St. Edmund's Chapel and School, Grime Street, built in 1862, owe their origin, likewise, to the Rev. Edmund Carter's perseverance. Chapels and Schools since erected at Astley Bridge and Halliwell are later testimonies to the growth of Roman Catholicism in Bolton and the neighbourhood. If this growth locally has gone on quietly adherents have been none the less zealous and liberal to the appeals for help.

Adverting for a moment again to the Centenary of the establishment of Sunday Schools, the Nonconformists in Bolton held the first portion of their celebrations on Thursday evening, 24th June (1880), the Temperance Hall having been engaged for the occasion. The united meeting—one of the largest ever held in the large building—was presided over by the late James Barlow, Esq., J.P., and he was supported by representatives

from almost every Sunday School in and around Bolton. Special addresses were delivered by the Chairman, Rev. J. A. Macfadyen, M.A. (Chorlton Road Congregational Chapel, Manchester), Rev. J. Kirsop (United Methodist Free Church, Albert Place), Rev. W. Cornforth (Wesleyan), Rev. J. F. Smythe (Claremont Baptist), Rev. C. A. Berry (St. George's Road Congregational), Mr. J. Hudlass (Independent Methodist, Folds Road), Rev. T. Scowby (Methodist New Connexion), Rev. Robt. Best (Independent, Mawdsley Street), Rev. S. Prenter, B.A. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Bowker's Row), Mr. George Winterburn (Independent Methodist, Folds Road), the oldest Sunday School Superintendent in Bolton. Hymns were sung by a choir of 40 voices, Mr. H. Taylor leading. On Saturday, 26th June, the out-door demonstration was held in beautiful weather. The place of meeting was the Town Hall Square, and, as on the occasion of the gathering of Church of England Sunday School scholars on the following Saturday, the Square was packed with processionists and spectators. There was a fine show of bunting also on every side, and the display of Sunday School flags and mottoes was something to be remembered. Every officer, teacher, and scholar wore medals. "Come let us join our cheerful songs," "How has the little one become," "Sound the note of battle," "Hark! the song of Jubilee," and "God bless our native land," were the hymns chosen, and they were sung with exceedingly fine effect. The route taken by the monstre procession was Oxford Street, Knowsley Street, St. George's Road, Marsden Road, Moor Lane, Derby Street, to Cannon Street, returning by Derby Street, Weston Street, Great Moor Street, Newport Street, to a point near Trinity Church, and thence back along Newport Street to the Town Hall Square, for dispersal to the several schools for tea. Altogether some 13,000 adults and juveniles took part in the demonstration, which was a complete success. On the following day special services were held in a number of the Chapels and Sunday Schools.

The united procession on Saturday was in this order :— Officers, Committee, and leading Sunday School workers; schools: Ridgway Gates Wesleyan, Mawdsley Street Independent, Rose Hill Independent, Derby Street Congregational, St. George's Road Congregational, Blackburn Road Congregational, and Duke's Alley Congregational; Wesleyans, Fletcher Street,

Slater Field, Birtenshaw (Turton), Halliwell Road, Fern Street, Bridge Street, Astley Bridge, Daubhill, Draycott Street, and Haulgh; Claremont and Astley Bridge Baptist; York Street Free Methodist; New Jerusalem (Higher Bridge Street); Bank Street and Commission Street Unitarians; Higher Bridge Street, Folds, Halliwell, Moor Lane, and Daubhill Primitive Methodists; Folds Road and Noble Street Independent Methodists; St. George's Road, Daubhill, and Brownlow Fold Methodist New Connexion; Presbyterian (Bowker's Row); Queen Street Mission; Albert Place, Bowker's Row, and Hanover Street United Methodist Free Church.

Before closing the chapters on Nonconformity in Bolton we must supply an omission on page 366—one referring to the Methodist New Connexion places of worship. Following "formal opening" on the page named, the words "of the new Chapel, St. George's Road" ought to have been inserted.

CHAPTER XXXV.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY BOLTON.

The Church of England and Social Life—Bolton as a Place of Refuge—The Old Market Cross—Civil and Criminal Law—Watching and Warding—Freeholders in 1600*—Local Subsidiary Rolls—Relief of the Palatinate—Ship Money in* 1635*—A Unique "Map"—Local Refusals of Knighthood—Thoroughfares and Buildings—Discomfort and Dreariness—Bolton Grammar School Established—Outbreak of Civil War—Arms and Armaments Seized—Master of the King's Troops—"Papists and Malignants"—Fighting at Chowbent and Leigh—Capture of Local Troops—Bolton a Rallying Ground for Parliamentarians—Local Auxiliaries at the Siege of Preston.*

AVING related the main points of local history in the early centuries of the Christian era, and followed the thread of events leading to the erection of the first sacred edifice upon the site occupied by the present magnificent fane at the east end of Churchgate, and traced Church history to the time of the Reformation, and onwards to the present day — bringing in at the same time the rise and development of Nonconformity in our midst—let us now devote some attention to matters of a purely secular character. As a matter of fact, this has been done in some measure already. We have seen from

time to time glimpses of local life, apart from the ecclesiastical, and a sense of its quaintness, at any rate, cannot but remain with us. There are, however, items upon which the strong light of the antiquary and the general historian has not yet been cast—be it our task to give some impression of what has happened in walks not previously touched upon. Too much must not be expected of an exciting nature, because, except during the period of the Civil Wars, which drenched many fair parts of England in human blood—when thousands upon thousands of the bravest men in the world "turned their courage against each other, whilst the dearest friends and nearest kinsmen embraced opposite sides, and buried their private regards in factions of hatred"—nothing at all approaching to violence occurred to disturb the serenity of Bolton-super-Moras, Bolthune, Bolton-o'th'-Moors, or by whatever name our old town has been known in the remote past. The record is one rather of steady progress in the arts of peace, "no less renown'd than war," of the growth of religion, of the gradual increase of population, and the expansion of border limits.

So uneventful, in a general sense, is the history of Bolton down to the middle of the Seventeenth Century, that the matter given in preceding pages might serve as a complete history of the place to the close of that period without further additions, for secular matters were inextricably mixed with those of the Church—around the one sanctuary centred local being and thought. It can only be repeated that what is Church history down to the seventeenth century is the pith, the substance, of Bolton existence. There are palpable grounds for this. Situate in the very centre of moors shutting out the old Roman roads, and away from the course taken by armies tramping north; adopted, likewise, by men of war marching south, Bolton was favoured with absolute immunity from real alarms of any kind until nearly three hundred years ago. No centre this for rude soldiery, save in the halcyon days of Romans, no pacing of the man-at-arms to and fro upon great walls of solid masonry, no watch-towers built to serve the inhabitants in times of fiery brutality, no magazines of army stores—the nearest approach to defence a wall of mud thrown up by Parliamentarians, and anything akin to a military centre the occupation of barracks early in the present century, with the

parading of Volunteers for practice and inspection. Was not Bolton recognised in old world times as a retreat for the lovers of calm and peace? If not, why the settling down of immigrants looking for shelter—men and women of Friesland, people of Flanders, in the fourteenth century; refugees from France and Germany in the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries respectively, and, among others, of martyrs to a faith they could hold, if not demonstrate, with comparative safety? No; the immediate vicinity of the Market Cross afforded a type of what Bolton has been—a market for cottons and yarns, and the sale of common goods. As we shall see, in a subsequent chapter, the fame of Bolton lies in manufacture and commerce.

Meanwhile, what of the Market Cross? Says one writer*: "At the entrance of almost every town and village, was originally erected a stone cross; not only there, but in the churchyards likewise. They were of different forms and sizes, some particularly enriched with niches, pinnacles, and other ornaments; others, on the contrary, altogether plain, very often not having a single ornament: this generally depended upon the size and consequence of the town in which they were placed. The original intention of these symbols was to draw the minds of the religious, before their entry into the sacred pile, to the devotions which they were going upon, and to the remembrance of the sufferings of our Saviour thereon. These were the principal motives that gave rise to their invention; they were not, however, merely objects to excite devotion, but great ornaments to the town. Religious service was very often performed at many of them, and some were even built like a pulpit, to admit of a preacher, *e.g.*, St. Paul's Cross, London, was after this manner." The one in Bolton was in the centre of Churchgate, near the junction with Bradshawgate. It was erected in the year 1482, and stood until 1776, when it was removed as an obstruction to the holding of the market there—continued to the year 1826, for ordinary use and for the sale of fish until 1855, when the commodious Market Hall was built in Knowsley Street. The cross, which was of iron, gilded, for many years, was fixed upon a shaft upon which was the date of erection, the base being of stone steps, circular in form. These gave accommodation to all sorts and conditions of men, and upon them were held dis-

* *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1811. Part II., p. 508.

cussions of divers kinds. Until the year 1662 (when the Act of Uniformity was passed) the appointed Lecturer in Bolton for the time preached from the steps to the populace, as did John Wesley and others in later years, and numberless banns of marriage were published here by the magistrates each market day.*

Of local government in Bolton and the vicinity in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries there was practically none, and of courts of law very few in the whole of the north of England. In a great measure the people of Bolton were left unrestricted by any laws other than those launched and carried into effect from the Metropolis—the taxes were upon the few and were mainly for the support of the royal Court and the defence of the country. A Council for the northern parts was instituted in the reign of Edward VI., and facilitated the hearing of law suits, causing, at the same time, less expense to the suitors because the cases were heard nearer home. In the words of Baines, the historian, the Council was furnished with powers to decide cases between plaintiffs and defendants, in their bill of complaint, without replication, rejoinder, or other plea of delay. "With power and authority to punish such persons as in anything should neglect, contemn, or disobey their command, or the process of the Council; and all other that should speak seditious words, invent rumours, or commit such like offences (not being treason) whereof any inconvenience might grow, by pillory, cutting the ears, wearing of papers, imprisonment, or otherwise, at their discretion, or to assess fines of all persons who might be

* The locality of the Bolton Cross was a sort of miniature Donnybrook, as the following shows:—"Duchy of Lancashire Pleadings, N.D., Vol. 5, Phil. and Mary, B. 29. In this Bill Robert Barton, of Smytheles, complains against Robert Leyvor and many others, and says that by a writing dated June 10th, 31 of Hen. 8th, a grant was made to Andrew Barton, father to plaintiff, of a moiety, on half part of the prebend of Bolton, with the half of the Parish Church of Bolton, and the half of all tithes oblations, &c., to the same church, from May 1st in that year for 60 years, as by the indenture of the said Tyldesley will be proved. Andrew Barton was possessed of the said moiety. The same came to plaintiff, and he hath enjoyed the same till of late, viz.: on August 11th last past the defendants by force of arms in moost ryottous and warrelyke manner neyther havyng the fere of God, nor yet rememberying theyr dutye of obbedyence to our late sovereigns the Lord and Lady, King and Queen, assembled themselves together at Bolton, with swords, daggers, pikes, &c., and hearing previously that plaintiff's servants were about to cut and carry the corn from the premises, plaintiff were servants repaired to the Crosse near Bolton, where the defendants and his servants lyed in waite for plaintiff's servants to beat them if they carried the said corn away, plaintiff's servants being ignorant of it in God's peace. When the plaintiff's servants arrived at the Crosse the defendants attacked them, swearing and making a great tumult, some with weapons ready drawn threatened them if they did not give up the corn. The defendants ignored the power of the justices of the peace."

convicted of any riot; and to assess costs and damages, as well to the plaintiffs as to the defendants. And for the more certain and brief determination of causes, it was ordained that the Lord President and Council should keep four general sessions or sittings in a year, each of them to continue by the space of one month—one at York, another at Hull, the third at Newcastle, and the fourth at Durham." A few years afterwards, Bolton and other centres in the north were scoured for what we should now term rogues and vagabonds, large numbers of whom were cast into prison, and the honest and peaceably disposed left to earn their livelihoods, and to pass their leisure without molestation. As time went on the system of watching, warding, and governing improved, albeit slowly, divisions for the purpose being created by degrees, the Court Baron and the Court Leet being at length firmly established and recognised, of which more anon. Bolton, at any rate, gave no serious amount of trouble in any respect—there were not more than 2,000 people in the parish in the year 1620, and 500 of these lived outside the limits of the town.* With regard to the contribution towards Imperial taxation, "in the Booke of Lone money within the Countye of Lancaster in the chardge and collection of Syr Richard Molyneux Knight, then Sheriff of the said Countye and collection of the same, in January, 1588,"† will be found the names of two local gentlemen (Roman Catholics) as contributors to the loan, namely, Christopher Anderton, of Lostock, Esq., who

* The following list is interesting in showing the principal inhabitants and gentry in our district in the year 1600. The names are taken from a comprehensive survey of the whole of Lancashire, edited by J. P. Earwaker, Esq., in 1885, for the *Record Society*, and being a transcript from the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum. The qualifications, besides coming at the termination of the name, in many cases likewise precedes the name:—*Justic'*, Radus Asheton de magna Leaver, ar'; *Justic'*, Radus Barton de Smythells, ar'; Willus Orrell de Turton, ar'; *Justic'*, Johes Bradshawe de Bradshawe, ar'; Willus Hulton de parke, ar'; Jacobus Andrton de Lostocke, ar'; Jacobus Browne de Westhaughton, ar'; *Justic'*, Robtus Pilkington de Rivington, ar; Georg' Hylton de farneworthe, ar'; Ricus Bolton de p'va bolton, ar'; Ch'rus Longworth de Longworth, gen'; Jacobus Worthington de Longworth, g'; Rogrus Walmisley de Rogrsteed, g'; Robtus Leigh de Westhaughton, g'; Thomas Leaver de p'ua leaver, g'; Ch'rus Tonge de Tonge, g'; Egidius Aynsworth de Aynsworth, g'; Willus Molyneux de Westhanghton, g'; Robtus Aynsworth de Aynsworth, gen'; Lau'encius Brownlowe de tonge, gen'; Georgius Hulme de Blakrode, gen'; Radus Booth de Aynsworth, gen'; Thomas Marecrofte de Kersley, gen'; Radus Greene de turton, gen'; ..... Halgh de Halghe, gen.; Thomas Richardson de Westhaughton, gen'; Georgius Shorrocke de Blackrode, gen'; ..... Longworth de Blakrode, gen'; Johes Aspinall de Aynsworth, gen"; Lamwell openshawe de Aynsworth, gen'; Andreus Leaver de magna Leaver, gen'; Ricus Lees de halliwell, gen'; Ricus Wood de turton, gen'; Lawrenc' Bradshawe de tonge, gen'; Henr' Scobcrofte de farneworth, gen'; Henr' Walmisley de turton, gen'; Gilbtus Lord de Haugh, gen'; Lawrenc Crompton de Brightmet, g'.

† Palmer's MSS., Vol. I., p. 19.

lent £100, and William Orrel, of Turton, Esq., who lent £25. We have the undermentioned, among other records:

SUBSIDY ROLLS.

The following are the local names appearing in a Subsidy Roll, a transcript of which was made by the late Canon Raines, and which will be found in vol. xxvii., pages 517, &c., of his manuscripts, preserved in the Chetham College, Manchester:—

BOLTON.

Gyles Aynesworth, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.
James *ffancett, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.
John Crompton, of Bryghtmede, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.
Wyllyam Morreys, of Tonge, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.
Ellys Bradshaw, of Tonge, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.
Robert Bolton, of Lyttyll Bolton, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.
Wyllyam Broke, of Lyttyll Bolton, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.

BLAKERODE.

Clemens Norreys, for xxi*li.* in lands	xxis.
Crystopher Wood, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.
Henry Markland, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.

TURTON.

John Orrell, Squyer, for xxii*li.* in lands	xxiis.
Wyllyam Howerth, for xx*li* in goods	xs.
Wyllyam Worthyngton, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.

EGGEWORTHE (EDGWORTH).

John Brendwood, for xxiiii*li.* in goods	xiis.

HARWODE.

John Bradshawe, for xx*li.* in lands	xxs.

LOSTOCKE AND RUMWORTHE.

Richard Urmeston, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.
Thomas Leghe, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.

HEATON AND HALLYWALL.

Margaret Heaton, for xxi*li.* in goods	xs. vj*d.*
Andrew Barton, Squire, one of the Comyssyoners, for lx*li.* in lands	iii*li.*
Roger Warde, for xxi*li.* in goods	xs. vj*d.*
Rychard Mershe, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.

HORWYCHE.

Bryan Heyton, for xxi*li.* in goods	xs. vi*d.*
Robert Horroks, for xxi*li.* in goods	xs.
Wyllyam Kirshawe, for xxii*li.* in goods	xis.
Nicholas Mather, for xx*li.* in goods	xs.

HULTON.

Adam Hulton, Squyer, for xxx*li.* in lands	xxxs.

* Probably a mis-transcription for "ffaucett."

WORSELEY.

Thurstan Tyldesley, Squyer, for lx*li.* in lands .....iii*li.*
Robert Worseley, Squyer, for xxx*li.* in lands..... xxx*s.*
— Browne, for xx*li.* in goods ..... x*s.*
Roger Bordeman, of Lyttle Hulton, for xx*li.* in goods..... x*s.*
James Mershe, for xx*li.* in goods ..... x*s.*
Gyles Bordeman, for xx*li.* in goods ... . x*s.*
Wyllyam Coke, for xx*li.* in goods..... x*s.*

SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1622.

The following local extracts are taken from the original Roll in the Chetham Library, presented to the Institution by Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart.

BOULTON.

Sr. Thomas Ireland, kt in lands .....xx*s.* ... iiij*s.*
Lawrence Brownlow, g in lands .....xx*s.* ... iiij*s.*
Thomas Crompton, in goods .....iiij*l.* ... x*s.* viij*d.*
James Crompton, in goods .....iiij*l.* ... x*s.* viij*d.*
Willim Holme, in goods .....iiij*l.* ... x*s.* viij*d.*
Raphe Roscowe, in goods.....iiij*l.* ... x*s.* viij*d.*
Lawrence Lord, in goods .....iiij*l.* ... x*s.* viij*d.*
Lawrence Brooke, in goods .....iiij*l.* ... x*s.* viij*d.*

Some of lands, x*l.*, of goods xxiiij*l.*.....Some...iij*l.* xij*s.*

TURTON.

John Orrell, esqr., in lands .....x*l.* ...ij*l.*
Christopher Horrockes, in goods.....v*l.* ... xiij*s.* iiij*d.*
Richard Orrell, in goods .....iiij*l.* ... x*s.* viij*d.*

Some of lands, x*l.*, of goods, ix*l.*.....Some...iij*l.* iiij*d.*

EDGWORTH.

Willim ffarneworth, in goods .....v*l.* ... xiij*s.* iiij*d.*
George Longworth, in goods .....iiij*l.* ... x*s.* viij*d.*

Some of goods, ix*l.*.....Some...xxiiij*s.*

HAREWOOD.

John Bradshawe, esqr., in lands .....iiij*l.* ... xvj*s.*
Rogr. Sharples, *alias* Ward, in lands .....xx*s.* ... iiij*s.*
Raundle Haworth, in goods ..... .vj*l.* ... xvi*s.*
Arthur Bromiley, in goods .....iij*l* ... viij*s.*

Some of lands, v*l.*, of goods, ix*l.* ....Some...x*l.* iiij*s.*

BLACKRODE.

George Longworth, in goods .....vj*l.* x*s.* ... xvij*s.* iiij*d.*
John Browne, in goods.....v*l.* viij*s.* iiij*d* ... xiiij*s.* vj*d.*

Some of goods, xi*l.* xviij*s.* iiij*d.*.....Some...xxxj*s.* x*d.*

HULTON.

Willim Hulton, esqr., in land	xl.	...	xls.
vx' Adam Gregorie, in goods	iiijl.	...	xs. viijd.
Richard Edge, in goods	iiijl.	...	xs. viijd.
Some of lands, xl., of goods, viijl.	Some...	iijl.	js. iiijd.

WESTHAUGHTON.

James Browne, esqr., in lands	xl.	...	xls.
James Worthington, in lands	xls.	...	viijs.
William Leighe, in lands	xxs.	...	iiijs.
Raphe Houlden, in goods	vl.	... xiijs.	iiijd.
Robte ffraunce, in goods	iiijl.	... xs.	viijd.
Rog'r Pendlebury, in goods	iijl.	...	viijs.
Davie Woodward, in goods	iijl.	...	viijs.
Rog'r Pycrofte, in goods	iijl.	...	viijs.
James Kearsley, in goods	iijl.	...	viijs.
Robte. Reeve, in goods	iijl.	...	viijs.
Some of lands, xiijs., of goods, xxiiijl.	Some...	vl.	xvjs.

LOSTOCK CUM RUMWORTH.

The heires of Christopher And'rton in lands in ward to his Ma'tie...			
John Crompton, in goods	iijl.	...	viijs.
Rog'r Grundie, in goods	iijl.	...	viijs.
Some of lands, ———, of goods, vjl.	Some...		xvjs.

HEATON CUM HALLIWELL.

Sr Thomas Barton, K't Comyssion'r in Lands	xxl.		iiijl.
Rog'r Walmsley, iu goods	iiijl.	xs.	viijd.
Richard Johnson, in goods	vl.	xiijs.	iiijd.
Some of lands, xxl., of goods, ixl.	Some...	vl.	iiijs.

HORWICH.

James Vrmeston, in goods	iijl.	...	viijs.
James Stones, in goods	iijl.	...	viijs.
Some of goods, 6l.	Some...		xvjs.

The undermentioned is extracted from the private Ledger of John Bridgeman, D.D., appointed Bishop of Chester, 1619, The original is now in the possession of the Bishop's descendant, the Earl of Bradford. A portion of this interesting manuscript has been edited by the Rev. the Hon. G. T. O. Bridgeman, M.A., Rector of Wigan, and was published in Vol. 12 (1885), of the *Record Society*. The manuscripts so transcribed are records of Loans, Contributions, Subsidies, and Ship Money, paid by the clergy of the Diocese of Chester, in various years from 1620 to

1639. Only references of local interest will be found in the following extracts.

FIRST LOAN OF THE CLERGY, 1620,

(For the use of the Count Palatine of the Rhine).

Mr. Gosnall, prcher of Bolton	2	0	0
Mr. Sanderson, curat of Bolton	0	6	8
Mr. Ashtley, curat of Turton	0	3	4
Mr. Horrocks, curat of Dean	1	0	0
Mr. Rathbon, curat of Cockey	1	0	0
Mr. Shaw, p'son of Ratcliff	4	0	0
Mr. Inskip, curat of Ratcliff	0	10	0
Mr. Langley, p'son of Prestwich	8	0	0

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CLERGY, 1622.

(Towards the recovery of the Palatine, etc.)

Vicar de Bolton, Mr. Sanderson	0	13	4
Lect. at Bolton, Mr. Gosnall	5	0	0
Curat de Turton, Mr. Astley	0	10	0
Schoolmr. of Rivington, Mr. Rudall	2	16	8
Schoolmr. of Blackroad, Mr. Bradley	1	0	0
Schoolmr. of Bolton, Mr. Duckworth	1	0	0
Vicar de Dean, Mr. Pendlebury	0	13	4
Lect. at Cockey, Mr. Rathbon	3	0	0
R. de Ratcliffe, Mr. Shaw	4	0	0
R. de Prestwich, Mr. Langley	6	13	4

There were three other collections for the relief of the Palatinate, viz., in 1627, 1632, and 1636. The third and last collection for the exiled ministers of the Palatinate, made through the diocese of Chester, came to £36 13s. 9d., "which," says Bishop Bridgeman, "(when I heard was so small), I charged the Dean of Manchester, Mr. Woolmer, who had gathered nothing, that he should sp: [eak] to the severall ministers to vrge it pressingly upon their people, who did it so effectually, as in his Deanery of Manchester alone, he received for his 3d. collection more, 125li: 18: 9, wch. was pd. to Mr. Edward Lively, secretary to Archbp. of York, Dr. Neal." As Bolton was in the Deanery of Manchester, it may be granted that the ministers belonging to this town and the immediate parishes contributed a proportionate share. Unfortunately a detailed list of these subsequent collections is not known to exist, if such were ever made.

A SUBSIDY FROM THE CLERGY, 1624.

There were four subsidies, made respectively in 1624, 1624-5, 1625-6, and 1626-7. Only the first of these has been

transcribed; as in the other three the ministers' names have not been repeated. Mr. Richard ffog, of Bolton, was appointed, along with Mr. William Crook, of Manchester, by Bishop Bridgeman, as his collectors of most of these tenths; and these collectors appointed Ralph ffog, in London, as their factor, who on receipt of the subsidies paid the same into the exchequer there. The sum of £32 was paid by the clergy in the Deanery of Manchester, including the following :—

Vic. Bolton, Wm. Greg [Robt. Park (?) crossed out)	1	16	0
Vic. Dean, [Blank] Pendlebery		nil	
R. Prestwich, Allen [Jo. Langley crossed out]	8	4	0
R. Ratcliff, [Blank] Shaw	3	12	0

During the period Humphrey Chetham held the office of High Sheriff of Lancashire [1635], the following payments were made by the clergy in Bolton and neighbourhood, as recorded in Canon Raines's MSS. :—

Vicar of Bolton			xij*d.*
Edmund Shawe, Minister of Rivington		2*s.*	6*d.*
Minister of Weshtoughton			6d.
Isaak Allen, Parson of Prestwich	ij*l.*	vij*s.*	o*d.*
Robert Walkden, Parson of Radclyffe		13*s.*	

In an old map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, printed in 1610, and which is described and divided into Hundreds (a copy of which is preserved in a scrap book in Chetham's College Library, Manchester), the following chapels are mentioned :—Turton Chap: Walmesley Chap: Smethels Chap: Harwich Chap [Horwich]: Cockley Chapel and Ainsworth Hall; Dean; Bolton; Bradshaw Chap. This map was "Performed by John Speed. And are to be solde in Popes head alley by G. Humbell cum Privilegio."

By the kind permission of Mr. Earwaker we are enabled to give the names of those persons residing in this parish who refused to accept the honour of knighthood about the year 1631, and to accompany each name by the amount of fine imposed :—

COMPOSITIONS MADE AT BURY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1631.

Richard Holland, of Heaton, gent	x*li.*
James Crompton. of Breightmett, gent	x*li.*
James Lever, of Darcie Lever, gent.	xiij*li.* vj*s.* viij*d.*
*Robt. Horrocks, of Aynsworth, gent.	x*li.*
Thomas Gooden, of Little Bolton [gent]	x*li.*
Richard Tounge, of Tounge, gent	x*li.*
Robert Leaver, of Ryvington, gent	x*li.*
John Bradshawe, of Darcie Lever, gent	x*li.*
Elize Crompton, of Darcie Lever, gent	x*li.*

* In Middleton Parish, but adjoining Breightmet in the Parish of Bolton.

The following compositions were made at Wigan on the 10th April, 1632:—

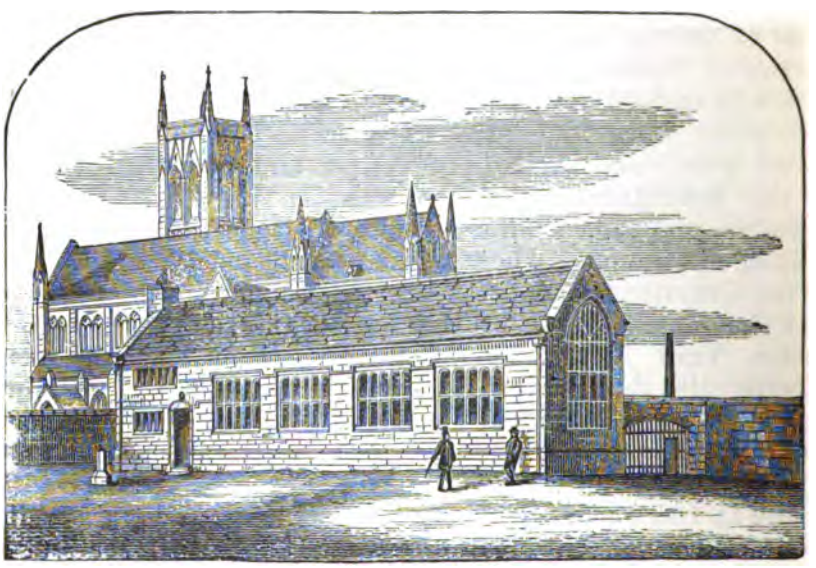
Humphrey Cheetham, of Turton, gent..... .....xxv*li.*
*Adam Hulton, of Hulton, Esquire ..... x*li.*
Xposer Anderton, of Lostocke, Esquire.....xxx*li.*

And so life went quietly and uneventfully on in channels as already mentioned—it was made up of religion and trading. Had it not been for church matters, and those weekly market days, Bolton would have been a dreary place indeed. The streets could not be many, with the population not exceeding five thousand souls, prior to 1640. The thoroughfares were as unseemly as they were few. Houses of timber for the most part, filled in with lath and plaster, the fronts painted or white-washed, sometimes both, but these fronts pointed and unsymmetrical. No building line to come out beyond which meant a summons or fine; no footpath for convenience and protection from saddle and pack horses, no cleanly swept, orderly pavement, but houses and shops jutting upon narrow, irregular, and bemudded roadways and alleys, Deansgate and Bradshawgate the main arteries of the town as they are to this day. There was Churchgate, too, its eastern limit the terminus of town life on that side, as was the extremity of Windy Bank—with its old tumble-down dungeon—to the north; fields extending onwards where Kay Street and Folds Road now mark the channels of existence in an important section of Little Bolton; Bow Street and a straight line westwards defining the outside of town life in that direction; while west of Moor Lane were pasture and meadow land, orchards and drying grounds, and where Trinity Street now stands the boundary of activity. Nay, within, this very narrow circle were gardens, orchards, crofts, and vacant grounds, with passages unkept and dangerous, overlooked by thatched abodes of the poorer working classes. A "gentleman's" house then was dingy, ill-ventilated, unhealthy, circumscribed—what must have been those of the wretchedly paid workers in fustians and general goods? Add to these conditions, after sunset, the black unlighted night, and some faint conception of what Bolton was nearly three centuries ago is formed. How chill and dreary, gloomy and uncomfortable!

*In Deane Parish adjoining Bolton.

As there was one place of worship for the town so there was one educational establishment only. It was the Grammar School. Its exact site cannot with certainty be pointed out, though it has been stated with some degree of force that the education imparted in the first Bolton Grammar School was in a small building near the Parish Church gates, and not upon the site covered by the second and third (the present) establishment. The foundation of the first Grammar School undoubtedly owed it origin to William Haighe, of Wigan, who bequeathed a house and land at Tockholes, near Blackburn, in the month of March, 1524, for the support of a master who should teach in Bolton. The property was vested in six trustees,—including the then Vicar of Bolton (James Bolton), John Leaver, Richard Warde, Alexander Orrell, Thomas Glazebrook, and John Walsh—who faithfully carried out what was expected of them; and feoffees, or governors, were appointed in turn. The operations of the School were very limited, of course, and not until the middle of the Seventeenth Century was its influence appreciably extended, and then from a bequest of Robert Lever, a London clothier of affluence, whose will was attested 16th March, 1641, a Free Grammar School was erected upon the top of the slope near the eastern gable of the Parish Church, then known as Ashton Yard Field. The sieges of Bolton and the general uncertainties that prevailed for years precluded the building of the school until eighteen years had elapsed after the date of bequest and fifteen subsequent to the death of the founder. The messuage and land whence the yearly income was derived were situate in Harwood. The executors of the will were William Lever and John Lever, brothers, and Robert Lever and John Lever, nephews. About £470 was expended upon the buildings and fittings. The head master's salary was not great—£10, and advanced by degrees to £20, £30, £40, until in 1790, Rev. John Lempriere, B.A., (afterwards Dr.) was appointed at a salary of £84 per annum, with a dwelling in Churchgate. As a rule, the salary of the second master, or usher, was little less than that of the head master. The school hours in those days commenced at 6 a.m. or 7 a.m., and teaching continued with slight intermission to 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. In the course of time additional bequests were made, the Rev. William Boardman and Samuel Chetham leaving lands and buildings for the purpose, in addition to which was the bequest of the Rev. James Gosnell, lecturer.

The second Grammar School stood wear and tear well—it was not demolished before the year 1880. The present building, a great improvement on the old structure, was opened 11th September, 1883, at a cost of £2500. For a period of 160 years the only recognised entrance to the Grammar School was by a small doorway in the east boundary wall of the Parish Church Yard, land right of way for an approach from Churchbank being obtained from Lord Bradford. In

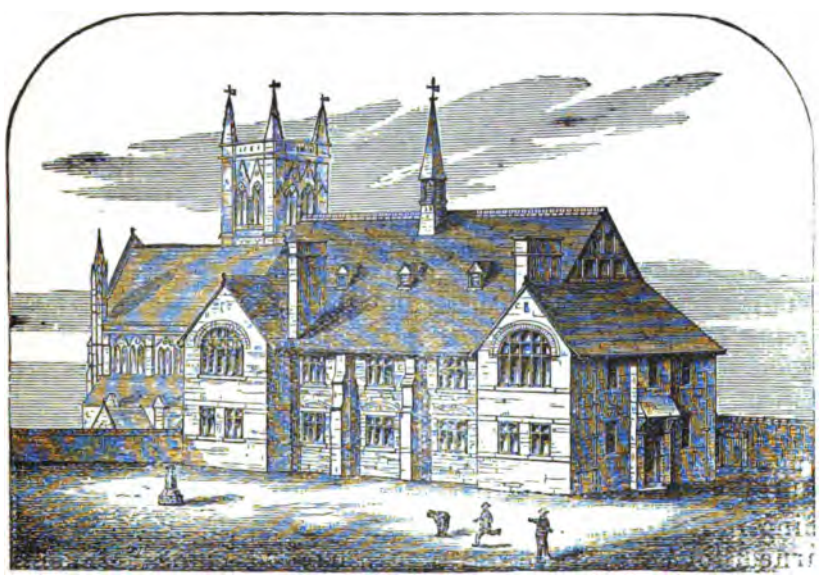


Old Grammar School—Founded 1641 *(with Parish Church in background).*
(Re-produced from the Bolton Chronicle.)

1831 the Popplewell Scholarships were founded. Mr. John Popplewell, of Bolton, bequeathed interest on £2,000 for the purpose; since then Exhibitions have been founded by gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, and leading townsmen have discharged the office of feoffee or governor in successive generations, from the beginning of the Grammar School history—certainly an untold number of prominent Boltonians are

indebted to the local Grammar School for the best part of their education.

Having sketched in the briefest manner the history of the Bolton Grammar School, let us return to the Seventeenth Century. Charles I. ascended the throne in 1625, and the preliminaries to the Civil War were begun. After much hesitation the monarch acceded to the petition of Parliament: 1. That no money should be levied by virtue of the King's prerogative;



New Grammar School (with Parish Church in background). Corner Stone Laid Nov. 29, 1880.
(*Re-produced from the Bolton Chronicle.*)

2, that the arrest of Hampden for the non-payment of the levy for Ship Money be declared illegal; 3, that private persons should not have soldiers billeted upon them; and 4, that no man should henceforth be tried by martial law. Charles evaded the spirit of his promises by inflicting measures extremely harsh in character through the instrumentality of the Star Chamber and the High Commission Court, and drove from their native

land a number of families—those who preferred to suffer abroad rather than endure hardships inflicted upon them at home. Quarrels in Scotland, Ireland, and with foreign countries, necessitated the raising of still heavier taxes for ships and additional troops, and the King came directly in conflict with Parliament by ordering the arrest of five of the people's representatives. Proceeding himself to Westminster to witness, as he believed he would, the removal of the five, matters were brought to a crisis. The members had escaped, and seeing that his person was not safe from the fury of the populace Charles sought refuge in flight also. This was in 1642, the year after that in which the Commons passed a special resolution denying that the King had any right to the absolute prerogative he claimed.

Charles had fled to York. He was presented with assurances of unabated confidence in him from many quarters, including the County of Lancaster. A meeting at Preston called for the purpose of considering the situation proved very tumultuous, Royalists and Parliamentarians alike making themselves heard. Arms and ammunition were seized by adherents on both sides in the county, while in Yorkshire the feeling ran so high against the King that he was refused admission to the town of Hull, whither he marched from York. Sir John Girlington was High-Sheriff of Lancashire at that time, and was ordered by Parliament to suppress any rising; but Charles appointed Lord Strange to the office, as well as to that of Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, and aggravated thereby the feelings already provoked. Coming into Lancashire from attendance on the King, who had returned to York, Lord Strange appeared before Manchester with a body of soldiers, called for submission in the King's name, and for the production of all arms and ammunition. He was driven off by force. Hearing of this, Charles caused a muster of Royalists in Lancashire, and it is computed that twenty thousand armed men answered in the three centres—Preston, Ormskirk, and Bury. Issue was joined between the Royalists and Parliamentarians throughout the country. On the 25th August (1642), the royal standard was raised at Nottingham; Worcester was fought 23rd September, and engagements between Cavaliers and Roundheads became frequent. The County of Lancaster* says the letter of a Roundhead who

* *Baines's History of Lancashire.* Vol. I., p. 216, 1868.

was actively engaged in the Civil Wars, "is grievously disturbed and divided into two factions, the Papists and Malignants, whereof there are many in Lancashire, taking one part, and the well-affected Protestants another. The Earl of Derby, the great ringleader of the Papist faction, keeps his rendezvous at Warrington, whither great multitudes of ill-affected people, both out of Lancashire and Cheshire, daily resort, it being upon the frontiers of both counties. They make daily great spoil in the country, which has so much incensed the people that they are determined, tide death tide life, to endure it no longer."

In the month of November a skirmish took place between Chowbent and Leigh, about five miles from Bolton, in which the country folk beat back towards Leigh and Lowton a company of Earl Derby's troopers, and about the same time Captains Bradshaw and Venables, of the Parliamentary forces in Bolton, were overtaken and captured near Wigan by a body of Cavaliers. Bolton was from the first largely for the Parliament, and against the King. Puritans and Independents had come into the town from various parts, had influenced public opinion in no small degree, and had done much to make the presence of the fighting Roundheads who had gathered in the town agreeable, helping them at the same time to provide against surprises from without. Bolton supplied, too, auxiliaries to a force headed by Sir John Seaton, when he marched through the town, 10th February, 1643, to his successful attack on Preston. Houghton Tower surrendered to his men shortly afterwards.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

CIVIL WAR: THE ASSAULTS ON BOLTON.

Earl Derby and "Poor and Pious Bolton"—Scouts Surprised—Hesitancy and Loss—Wind and Fire—Fighting upon the Wall of Defence—"A New Invented Mischievous Instrument"—Another Account of the First Assault—Fierceness of the Enemy—Rout of the Royalists—Killed and Wounded—Plundering at Little Lever—Record in the Parish Burial Register—Second Assault on Bolton—Submission Demanded—"The End of Prayer the Beginning of Fight"—Prince Rupert's Determination: He advances upon Bolton, accompanied by Lord Derby and Colonel Sir Thomas Tyldesley—Council of War—Relative Strength of Contestants—Repulse of the Assailants—The Attack Renewed—Earl Derby leads—Desperate Conflict—Prince Rupert in Bolton—Retreat of the Parliamentarians.

HE first assault on Bolton by the Royalist troops took place on the 16th February, 1643, immediately after the capture of Houghton Tower. This was characterised by a writer of that period as "the unhappy time that the Earle (of Derby) chose to recover his Preston losses, in the gaining of poore and pious Bolton, which would have been a backdoor to Manchester." Of this military contention several accounts have been written and are still extant, all varying in matters of detail, but in point of fact all

agreeing. As in every case there are two sides to a question, in all fairness it will be essential to present more than one report of the battle. The account here first given is taken from a rare tract, entitled, *Lancashire's Valley of Achor*,* written by a well-wisher to the Prince of the Land, and Piety of the Church, under the sub-heading of "Lancashire's Houre of Sad Temptation and Joyful Issue." Of this work the following appears:—

"BOLTON'S FIRST ASSAULT.

"The Earle's Major Generall, with about one thousand Horse and Foot, marched toward Bolton, surprized their Scouts in the way, and discovered themselves to be within a mile of the Town, about nine of the clocke, little suspecting that the Bolton Souldiers were that while at prayer in the Church, nor the Souldiers knowing what need they had by Prayer to prepare for Fight. Had they presently come down upon the Towne, they had taken them unprovided of Ammunition; but fetching a compasse that they might come on in a more ominous way, by Great Leaver, the Bishop's house, the Souldiers were furnished to resist. The assault was fierce and threatning, the Outworks outed our men to entertain the enemy, who stayed not there, but followed to the Town, fired an house near the Sentinell, wherein the winde served them to carry the smoke upon us; But God presently commanded the winde to blow from another point, to darken and smother the fire-kindlers.

"Then the enemy tooke an house that joyned to the Mud-Wall, and had windows above it, which gave them advantage, to beat our men from the Wall, and a Stable that opened into the Street, whence they shot the Major through the Arme, and had commission to kill his Horse, but to save him. This doore they opened to enter, but God so faced and feared them by our men, that they turned their backs and shut the doore, found passage out, and place for retreat. Whilest the Fight lasted, the

* The full title of this work reads: "Lancashire's Valley of Achor, is England's Doore of Hope: Set wide open, in a brief History, of the Wise, Good, and Powerful hand of Divine Providence, Ordering and Managing the Militia of Lancashire; Not onely to the Preservation, but Exaltation of a Poor, and Praying people, in two Hundreds; Against and above a considerable Armie, of Popish, and ill affected persons in foure Hundreds. Wherein the strife of Piety and Providence, with impiety and humane strength, in the weaknesse of means, unto graduall, and compleate Victory is laid out; to advance God's praise, and advantage England's Faith." Three passages from Scripture are then given, followed by the imprint: "London: Printed for Luke Fawne, and are to be sold at his Shop in Paul's Church yard, at the signe of the Parrot, 1643."

vapouring Horse prevented assistance, so that they compassed the people of God about; yea, *They compassed them about, but in the Name of the Lord they did destroy them.* Psal. 118, 11. Whilest God's people at Manchester did sing and praise, the Lord set ambushments against their enemies at Bolton, and *They were smitten.* 2 Chron., 20, 21, 22. Here the canons roared often, but still played children's play, for they mortally hit but one lad, reported to be of their own side.

"Hither their wittie malice brought a new invented mischievous Instrument, which received this description at Bolton: And head about a quarter of a yard long, a staffe of two yards long or more, put into that head, twelve iron pipes round about, and one in the end to stab with. This fierce Weapon (to double their scorn) they called *A Roundhead; but no weapon that is framed against thee shall prosper.* Isaiah 54, 17."

The following is probably the most interesting report of the first siege of Bolton. It is one taken from *A Punctuall Relation of the Passages in Lancashire*, printed in 1643. After mentioning the explosion at Houghton Tower causing the destruction of many lives of the Parliamentarians, the writer proceeds:—

"There was left to keep Boulton, which lies betwixt Manchester and Wigan, Colonell Ashton, Captaine Bulkley, of Ouldham, Captain Ashurst, of Radcliffe Bridge, and all their companies to the number of 500. Upon Thursday morning last there came against this Towne, within a mile of it (before they had any certaine intelligence), from Wiggan, of my Lord Darbie's Forces, eleven colours, two companies of Dragooners, and some Troopes of Horse with their Cannons, who marched on so furiously, that by the guidance of some malignant neighbours, had surrounded the Town before it was well aware, and had so stopt the passages that scarse any helpe could come from the country to relieve the Towne. The enemy gave the first assault at Bradshaw gate end of the Towne, where the Towne had three sconces, but the enemy set upon our own men that were in them so resolutely that they beate them from their workes, and forced them to retreate and leave them, and to runne with much difficultie and hazard toward a muddle wall and chaine which they had a little nearer the towne to save themselves; but amongst the rest Captaine John Ashurst was sore put to it, for as he retreated

towards the Towne with twenty-four men, there was sixty enemies got between him and home; and yet after sharpe bickering and the losse of a man or two, hee got safe to the chaine, having slaine one man with his owne hands, and his souldiers two or three more with their but ends of their muskets. When the enemy had gained these out-workes, they came furiously upon the muddle wall and chaine, and had thought to have broke through all, but there was such sharp service for a great while together as I think hath seldome beene heard of. They played sore upon our workes with their ordnance, and shot quite through our muddle walls, which were two yards thicke, and one of their bullets, after it had runne through, hit a man on the leg and broke it. They shot iron bullets of five or six pound weight; they also came up to the breast of our workes, even upon the mouthes of our muskets, but wee received them so valiantly and played on them so fast, that they could not enter there. Whereupon part of them fell off to the left, and entred five houses at the end of the Towne, the first being a malignant's, into which they were freely suffered to come into, and so out of those houses they played on the reere of our men that kept the Fort, and the rest played as fast on the front of them, insomuch that our men were forced for a while to give ground from their works.

"Whilst they thus shot out of the houses, they slew two of Captaine Bucklies men, and killed Sergeant Major Leighs horse under him; and as he was getting on the backe of another he was shot through the arme, yet hee and his men stood to it very courageously, and he called forth a squadron to goe against the houses which the enemy had taken. And one Scoles, his man, the first shot he made kild two of the men that had shot Sergeant Major Leigh in the arme, then two of our men entred one of the houses with the great ends of their muskets, and cleared that house, and entred upon the next, where there was such a threshing as never was heard of before, for besides the hand blowes that past, the enemy was so desperate that three times they came to the ends of their muskets, and catcht hold of them as they went off. Then Captaine John Ashurst broke through a house on the backe of them with sixteen musquettiers; and the enemy coming upon him very furiously, commanded them all to discharge at once, and to cleare the enemy if they

could, which was performed so well that through God's providence, that they beate them away, they fired three of the houses, but our men pulled down a house before them, that it did no further hurt. They also killed a woman and a childe, whilest they were in the houses, and swore they would leave neither man nor woman in the Towne. But praised be the Almighty, they could not attaine their bloody designes, for in conclusion they were beaten both out of the workes and houses they had taken; and when they heard the country began to come showting into our assistance, with a great deal of losse but more shame, they were glad to retire to their hold of Wiggan again, taking along with them two or three cart loads of dead bodies, and left behind them in their workes that they durst not take with them, twelve dead, and divers others mortally wounded, insomuch that it is thought there was slaine and wounded on their side nere upon a hundred men, whereof one was a Captaine named Ashton of Penket, and of our side we lost but eight or ten at the most, but never a commander. The chiefe mannagers of this exploit of theirs was Anderton of Lostock, Anderton of Burchly, and Sir Gilbard Garrard, with some others of note, being all recusants.

"Whilest they were thus busie fighting at Boulton, some foure troopes of horse, and seaven colours of foote, went a plundering about little Lever, but durst not stay to do any great harme. Our men fought like lyons, and amongst the rest Colonell Ashton himselfe behaved himselfe very valarously, and shot with his owne hands as fast as he was able. And I verily believe a sharper bout hath never beene in our country fought. And indeed God did both exceedingly put courage into our men, and also fight for them, otherwise in all likelyhood wee had both lost the day, the Towne, our lives and all. There came to have aided us all the *Club* men in Middleton, Ouldham, and Rachdale, and old Captaine Radcliffe with two hundred fresh souldiers from Manchester, besides the country thereabouts to the number of one thousand five hundred men, but it was too late, they were gone away to Wiggan before these came."

Another description of this siege appears in a pamphlet entitled *Special Passages and Certain Informations from Several Places, &c.* It was written on the 18th February, 1642-3—two days after the assault, which took place on Thursday, when the

Royalists suddenly seized upon the outworks of Bolton, but were beaten off with undaunted courage by the soldiers in charge of the town. The Royalists were glad to fly with a loss of men "not easily guessed," whilst only five soldiers were killed of the victors. The approach of the Cavaliers to the town is stated to be from Wigan by way of "the top of the Picks,* which is within a mile of the Towne." The foot soldiers marched down towards Bradshawgate end, "where there was a great worke," with some musketry therein, but they were soon driven out by the "muskets and great cannon." There was also an outwork at "Hardmans, of the Crosses," whence the besiegers forced the retreat of Captain Ashurst's company towards the town, who "stayed so long in the worke that the enemie began to breake in upon them, so much that they came to hand blows, whereby the Captaine slew one man with his skeane, and one of his souldiers thrust another through with his pike." However, recovering his men Captain Ashurst ordered them all to shoot at once, and to "flore the enemie if possible they could." The manœuvre was successful, and the Royalists fell back, dragging away their dead and bleeding soldiers, amidst the "shouts of the country people that came in in great numbers." It is to the slain in this battle that the following entries in the Parish Burial Register have reference :—

13th Feb.—A Soldier from Tho: Coops. (? This was three days before the attack.)

17th Feb.—John Rothwell, James Coop (? Cooper), John Greaves, Edmund Taylor, soldiers; John Seddon, John Nuttall, Robt Dandy, yeomen, and six rebelles, killed 16th. All these were slayne in a verry hott skirmish att Bolton lasting 4 howers. It was on thursday ffeb: 16, and the Rebells of Wiggan were beaten back abowte 4 of Clock in the affternoone, the[y] had shott there greyte cannons against bolton 14 tymes, yett repulsed.

17th Feb.—Alice Rothwell d: of Nath: de bolton, killed, inter ec: 20d.†

22nd Feb.—John Buckley a soldier.

After their repulse at Bolton the Royalist troops proceeded to

* Still known as the Pike, leading in the direction of Westhoughton and Wigan.

† Meaning that she was interred in the Church, for which a fee of 1s. 8d. was paid.

Lancaster, where the Earl of Derby's summons to surrender the Castle into his care was refused by the Cromwellians. The town was, therefore, subjected to severe usage for some nine days, and was ultimately captured.

THE SECOND ASSAULT ON BOLTON.

A little more than a year had passed from the first attack on Bolton when a second attempt was made to take possession thereof by the great Earl. This was on the 28th of March, 1644. Of this event only one account is preserved, being in the *Valley of Achor*, already noticed. The record works well in with another and singular memorial to which it refers, *i.e.*, the evidence of the fact of a second siege handed down to posterity by the remarkable gravestone of Puritan John Okey in Bolton Parish Churchyard, which says:—"This town *thrice* stormed, once taken and plundered." The third assault will be mentioned hereafter, The extract referring to the second attack is now given *in extenso*:—

"The Earle, encouraged by so manifold successe, hopes to gain all; he brings on Bolton's second hour of sore Temptation, yet in an unhappy season, March twenty-eight, the day before the Nationall Fast, and immediately after the Fast, March 27,* at Manchester, because of the Designe in hand, and also when the Towne was well provided with Souldiers, and Bury also furnished for their succour. The Enemie made no neare approach till three of the clock, so soon as they began to draw into a Body upon the Moore, our Cannoner drew his Cannon into a Croft on the backside of the Towne, and at the second shot killed two horses neare a mile off. Then a messenger came to summon the Towne to submission, but they resolved not to change the tenure for King and Parliament. When Sun was set, and it began to be dark, the Minister of the Town prayed with a company of Souldiers, most of them Townsmen. The end of Prayer was the beginning of the Fight, and where the Souldiers had even now prayed, they had a furious assault. The enemy came on desperately, even to hand blowes, and some of them leaped upon the Works, where they found Club-law. The enemy retreated, and left ten men dead. After this they made no assault till Bury forces were come into the Towne: for this second time they were more favourable to leave an open passage to our

* In the year 1644.

succour. Then they made an assault upon the South end of the Towne; by the advantage of the darknesse they came close to the Mud-wall. Here they hoped to prosper by fire, as at Lancaster, but the light discovering their nearenesse to danger, they fled for safetie. After this they marched towards the West, but finding it a busie and warm corner, they hasted off, and came on no more. The enemy left upon the ground at this assault three and twenty men. Bolton lost not a man, nor had any hurt done save only one youth shot through the arme. O admirable! *In Judah is God known, His name is great in Israel.* —Psalm 76, 1. *Many a time have they afflicted me* (may Bolton now say) *yet they have (not) prevailed against me.*—Psalm 129, 1, 2.

"It was the aggravation of Solomon's sinne and God's anger, that God had appeared unto him twice.—I. Kings, 11, 9. Pray God that it prove not Bolton's case.

"This starre appearing promised day to succeed our night, as it did in the taking of Wigan, April 1, that impregnable piece the Enemies pride and presumption, our fear and despaire; of which we sometimes said, it was not possible to take it by assault, or not without much blood, though indeed the sinfulness of the place did render it the weakest of all others.

"Though our Horse made a retreating onset before our Foot came up, though two Souldiers were slain with a Cannon Bullet in their marching up, yet so venturous and daring was the stirring resolution of our Souldiers, that they were suddenly engaged so farre, that they must go on or lose their lives.

"They goe on and enter, whilest the Enemy opens a back doore to go out, that the Towne might be free.

"A bright beam of this shining victory, was that God by a merciful recompence gave it into the hands of Bolton Souldiers, who had been twice infested from Wigan, and evidence that God's side will prosper, bee the disproportion what it will, poore Bolton shall abide a double storm when God is with it; proud and powerful Wigan shall fall at once and with ease, when God is departed from it."

The second assault on the town in the March of 1644 was even more disastrous to the Royalists than on the first attempt to capture this Parliamentarian stronghold. The Earl lost a considerable number of his soldiers, but the garrison only a few. The Registers record the following burials after this affray:—

29 March.—23 of the Earle of Darbeyes men all in one Cave.

4 Aprill.—Two Soldiers sleyne.

10 Aprill.—Roger Dixon a soldier.

The town was only left in peace against invasion for exactly two months after this, as will be seen from the ensuing events.

THE THIRD ASSAULT ON BOLTON AND ITS CAPTURE.

Though the Parliamentarians in Bolton had twice repulsed the powerful onslaughts of the Cavaliers during the Civil Wars, the Town was still a place coveted by the Royalists. It was certainly a thorn in the side, and nothing would satisfy the determination of the King's army short of its complete surrender or capture by force. The situation of the town was midway between the headquarters of the Parliamentarians at Manchester and those of the Royalists at Wigan. This circumstance tended to make it a desirable possession to both sides. Hence it was with no small amount of pride to the gallant inhabitants, and also to the Manchester reinforcements under Col. Alexander Rigby, that they were so far able to hold their own, and that they were still masters of "poor and pious Bolton," the very seat and centre of Puritanism, "the Geneva of Lancashire." How long this would last they knew not, but the recent success against the Earl of Derby and his men must assuredly have strengthened their belief as to their safety.

On the other hand, Prince Rupert, enraged at the persistency of the bravely defended town, determined again to prosecute the siege. Undaunted by previous defeats he marched with a large army towards Bolton, accompanied by the Earl of Derby and Colonel Sir Thomas Tyldesley. Arriving on the Moor, near the south-west end of the town, an army of some 12,000 men halted, and a council of war was held. All being in readiness, and the soldiers eager for the fray, the march was continued, until the mud walls were in view.

The battle began. Determination to stand to their posts, and the courageous display of warlike skill, were united in the defenders, and to these qualities the capture of their stronghold by the Royalists was for a time deferred. Notwithstanding the comparatively small army within the walls, computed at about 2,500 men, the assailants were repulsed with a loss of about 200,

and the Prince withdrew his soldiers out of the cannons' reach. A second deliberation ensued with his staff, and on the Earl's suggestion the military tactics were changed. The Earl, at his own request, was to lead the van with 200 of his own men, who had been recently under Col. Tyldesley's command. If necessary, reinforcements were at his call. Now came the struggle, in downright earnest, and "death or glory" was the Earl's resolve. On, again, with redoubled vigour marched the picked two hundred, with exemplary courage inherited from their gallant leader. Again the defenders of the besieged town received them with equal bravery and unwavering resistance. The rudely constructed wall, although six feet wide, was not proof against the assault of so dire a foe, and a breach was soon made by the attacking party and an entrance thereby effected. Reinforcements were at hand, and whilst Col. Rigby with the main portion of his men was contesting the ground with the Earl, other parts of the town fell into the hands of the Prince. This decided the terrible conflict, and the Parliamentarians were entirely put to rout. Col. Rigby succeeded in making his escape towards Bradford, in Yorkshire, probably taking the road leading to Bury, on the east of Bolton. A few of his followers accompanied him, but most of those whom he left behind were at the mercy of infuriated antagonists.

Thus was conducted the third assault on our ancient town, the last during the lamentable extravagances of the Civil Wars. The King's party were now in possession of their long coveted territory, and its loss to the espousers of Cromwell's cause spread great consternation throughout their ranks in all parts of the country, especially in Lancashire.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

CIVIL WAR: THE ASSAULTS ON BOLTON—(II.)

Further Accounts of the Third Attack—Royalist and Roundhead Versions: Harrowing Details—"Massacring, Dismembring, and Cutting"—Alleged Fearful Outrages—Grave Charge against the Earl of Derby—Lamentation—A Parliamentary Ordinance—A Strange Story—Burials at the Parish Church: Full List—Surrender of Lathom House—The Royalists Vacate Bolton and Lancashire—Execution of Charles I.

EVERAL "party" accounts of this memorable third siege of Bolton have been printed. The first account was written by a sympathiser with the revolutionary or Parliamentary party. The tract does not bear any author's name, but circumstances suggest that it was produced from the pen of the Rev. John Tilsley, Vicar of Deane 1642 to 1662.* It is entitled:—

"*An Exact Relation of the bloody and barbarous Massacre at Bolton in the Moors in Lancashire, May* 28, *by Prince Rupert, being penned by an Eye-Witness admirably preserved by the gracious and mighty hand of God in that day of Trouble.* Published according to Order. London: Printed by *R. W.* for *Christopher Meredith.* August 22, 1644."

Following an introduction, the tract reads: "On Tuesday, May 28, this sad towne, being almost destitute of men, ammu-

* See Scholes's "Bolton Bibliography," pp. 20, 21.

nition, or other means of defence, was in the morning relieved by that noble cordiall commander, Col. Rigbie; and certainly if some other aid designed for our helpe had come in time, there had been a good account rendered of that townes preservation, and the enemies discouragement; but that God, which intended not our deliverance, used not the meanes; yet in all there was about 2000 Souldiers and 500 Clubmen, a company sufficient if the securitye of the Inhabitants had not hindred their better fortifying of the same.

"About two of the clocke in the afternoone the enemy was discovered about a mile off, and they made their approaches to the Town on the More south-west from the Town. Their number was guessed, and by themselves after confessed, to be 12,000. They appeared at first like a wood or cloud, and presently were cast into severall bodies; divers scouts approached to discover the way for their entrance with most advantage. Our Commanders were very couragious, and our Souldiers very hardy, and both resolved to stand to it, and in the first encounter gave them about halfe an houres sharp entertainment, were close in discharge, as the enemies confessed after, and repulsed them bravely to the enemies great losse and discouragement, and in their retreate cut them down before them in great abundance, and they fell like leaves from the tree in a winter morning.

"Then was a breathing, or rather a new preparative for a fresh encounter, which was gallantly performed on both sides, wherein the worthy Colonell Rigby, and his commanders, Captain Willougby, Captain Bootle, and the rest, did notable service. But, alas, what could naked men do against horse in an unfortified place: besides, it is conceived that a Townsman was their convoy to bring them on through a place called the Private Akers for a great reward; and when once the horse was got into the Town, there could be no resistance almost made, but every man left to shift for himself.

"At their entrance, before, behinde, to the right, and left, nothing heard but 'kill dead,' kill dead was the word in the Town, killing all before them without any respect, without the town by their Horsemen pursuing the poore amazed people, killing, stripping, and spoiling all they could meet with, nothing regarding the doleful cries of women or children, but some they slashed as they were calling for quarter, others when they had

given quarter, many hailed out of their houses to have their brains dasht out in the streets, those that were not dead in the streets already pistoled, slashed, brained, or troden under their horses feet with many insolent blasphemous oaths, curses, and challenges to heaven itselfe (no doubt) hastening the filling up of their cup, and bringing that swift destruction upon them, which they shortly afterwards tasted of (and blessed, blessed ever be the great and just God for it) with many taunts and cruell mockings; as, 'See what your prayers are come to! Where is all your dayes of humiliation? O, that we had that old Rogue Horrocks that preaches in his grey cloake!'

"The relator upon his own knowledge and good information further addes some particular instances of their then matchless cruelty, by which (as *ex ungue leonum*) you may judge and abhorre them, and their actions, and the Lord grant England at last an open eye and due sense of her owne misery, by this sad spectacle, and wofull example of Bolton."

These "particular instances" of their then matchless cruelties include very serious charges of "massacring, dismembering, cutting of dying or dead bodies, and boasting, with all new coined oathes swearing how many Roundheads this sword or they had killed that day, some eight, some six, some more or lesse. Arms, legs, yea the braines themselves lying distant from their heads, bodies, and other parts."

The writer proceeds: "But the principal stain of all their cruelty, as is reported, was set off by that Strange Earle, his ignoble, nay base killing of valiant Capt. Bootle after quarter given, besides whom, and Captaine Horrocke, we lost no commander of note; but they lost, as is confessed, a Colonel, a Lieutenant Colonel, and divers other Commanders of good quality. Whether their losse or ours was greater for souldiers is somewhat questionable. Of their or our side it is conceived there was slain 1200 or 1500 in all. Widows husbandlesse, and hundreds of poor children fatherlesse, and a sweet godly place a nest of owles and a den of dragons, almost without inhabitant; only a few women and children are the remnant left, without bit to eate, bed to lie on almost, or a cup to drink in, or any meanes of subsistence in the world. So that we may well conclude with Jeremiah (Lam. i., 12):

'Was ever sorrow like to my sorrow? Is it nothing to you, O yee that pass by?' &c."

Let the reader bear in mind that the long "relation" just given, flowed to all appearances from the pen of perhaps one of the greatest bigots against the King's supremacy, and who is referred to in an account of Wigan's loss to the Royalists, at the hands of the Parliamentarians, as "one of their Puritanical teachers, [who] hung round him, as the spoils and plunder of a popish Idol," the Communion Plate which was by them so ruthlessly seized. For this reason the reader will do well to avoid comments until another view of the siege has been given.

One point needs further comment, and that is the story of the Earl of Derby's cruelty towards Captain Bootle. The Chronicler of the Siege of Lathom says on this subject that "the Earl did him the honour of too brave a death, to die by his Lord's hand." As will be seen in the scaffold speech of the Earl, the charge is emphatically denied, and he disclaims being "a man of blood." In several accounts of the events of the Civil War, it is thought that the reason of the Earl's execution being ordered for Bolton was "for his cruelties there, and his killing in cold blood one Captain Bootle, formerly his servant." It is certain that Prince Rupert forbade quarter to the besieged on account of the slaughter of his captured soldiers on the ramparts of the town. Another writer says that the Earl of Derby headed the "forlorn hope" in the renewed assault, and that in the height of the carnage his late servant met him near the Cross, and fell near him. This was Captain Bootle, who it is said begged quarter, but was told by the Earl, "I will not kill thee, but I cannot save thee from others." Hence arises the incredible story which the Earl of Derby did his best to refute when on the scaffold at Bolton, and on the brink of eternity. Other errors, more easily proved, have also been handed down to posterity in the *Perfect Diurnall* of June 10th, 1644.

The Royalists' account is taken from Seacome's *Memoirs of the House of Stanley*, and throws an entirely different light upon the taking of Bolton in 1644 by Prince Rupert and the Earl of Derby. It reads:—

"*An Account of the Siege and taking of Bolton, in the County of Lancaster, on the twenty-eight of May*, 1644, *by his Highness*

Prince Rupert, General and Chief Commander of the Army of his Uncle, King Charles I.

"The Prince being advertized that the Siege of Latham House was raised, and that Rigby, the late Besieger thereof, with his Army, were fortified in Bolton, resolved to do all that lay in his power to Avenge the Affronts and Abuses put upon and Suffered by the Brave and Noble Lady Derby, to whom he knew himself nearly ally'd by Consanguinity of Blood; therefore, waiving their Garrison of Manchester, he hastened to Bolton, which being but of a small Circuit, and Defended with three thousand Men, His Highness rightly judged would make a Vigorous Resistance; however, having called a Council of War, ordered his Post, and prepared for a Storm, gave Directions for the Assault, which was Performed with much Gallantry and Resolution by his Men; but being greatly Annoy'd from the Wall by the Enemies Cannon, and the Multitude of the Defendants, they were obliged to Retreat, and Quit the Assault, with the Loss of two Hundred men.

"His Highness being greatly Irritated and Ruffled by this Repulse, but especially with the Barbarous Cruelty of the Enemy, who murdered his Soldiers taking in the Storm in Cold Blood upon the walls before his Eyes; with which he was highly Provoked, and called a second Council of War, wherein he proposed a second Onset. The Earl of Derby considering how much he was concerned for his Lady and children, who unless the Town were Taken, would upon the Prince's departure be again immediately Besieged, requested his Highness to allow him two Companies of his Old Soldiers then under the Command of Colonel Tyldesley, and to give him the Honour to Command the Vann, saying he would either enter the Town, or leave his Body in the Ditch. His Highness appeared unwilling to Hazard a Person of his great worth in so Desperate an Action, yet, upon his Importunity, comply'd with his Request; and things being Prepared and Ready, the Prince gave Orders for an Assault on all Parts of the Town where 'twas possible to make any Approaches.

"The Earl of Derby with his two Hundred Men Marched directly to the Walls, and after a Quarter of an Hour's hot Dispute, Entered the First Man himself, who being Bravely Seconded by Supply's the Town was instantly Attack'd on every

quarter; Rigby himself got away, but left two Thousand of his Men behind him, most of which were slain upon the Place, the Prince forbidding to give Quarter to any Person then in Arms, because they had so inhumanly Murdered his Men in Cold Blood, (as before mentioned),

"This Action was performed on the twenty-eighth of May, 1644. And the sudden and surprising Conquest of this Town (just after so Smart a Repulse), was chiefly attributed to the Courage and Resolution of the Brave Earl of Derby, animated by a just concern of the Sufferings of his Noble Lady and Children, and to the Bravery of the two Hundred Lancashire Men he had the honour to Command on that Occasion; for all fought with Equal Ardour for the Relief of their Noble Lady Mistress, being all Tennants and Neighbours' Sons, Raised, Cloathed, Armed and Trained by that Valiant Earl, but Ungenerously and Disgracefully taken from him by the King at Worcester; whose weak and easie Temper proved afterwards the Ruin of himself, and his Brave and Gallant Subject the Earl of Derby, who once, in all appearance, had Interest and Power sufficient, if right use had been made thereof, to have Delivered his Majesty from the Power and Malice of all his Enemies.

"The Prince having obtained this seasonable Victory over the Rebels in Bolton, sent all the Colours taken there by Sir Richard Lane to the Lady Derby, which her Ladyship received as a singular Honour as well as Comfort, and caused them to be hung up in Latham House, as a happy remembrance of God's Mercy and Goodness to her and her Family."

From *A Briefe Journall of the Seige Against Lathom*, discontinued shortly after the taking of Bolton by Prince Rupert and the Earl of Derby, the following is extracted:—

"In this towne [Bolton] the Prince intended to take upp his quarter, being truely certifyed by his scouts, that it was not without an enemy; but being happily prevented by Rigby and some other auxiliaries from Coll. Shuttleworth, to the number of 4 or 5000 in all, his Highnes on Tuesday drew upp his army before the town, as truely happy of occasion to fight with the merciles besiegers of a Princesse in misery, and forthwith with all gallantry and resoluc'on ledd up his men to an assault.

"The Earle of Derby, desireing to be one of the first avengers of that barbarousnes and cruelty expressed to his Lady,

with a part of the Princes owne horse charged a troope of the enemy, w'ch braveringly issued out ot the towne, to disorder and vexe our foote in the assault. Theise hee chact to the very walls, where he slewe the Cornett, and with his owne hand tooke the collours, being the first ensigne taken that day, w'ch he sent to his Highnes. Att his first passe into the towne, closely following the foote at theire entrance, his Lo'pp met with Capt. Bootle, formerly one of his owne servants, and the most virulent enemy ag't his Lady in the seige. Him hee did honor of too brave a death to dye by his Lord's hand, w'th some others of his good countreymen, that had 3 monethes thirsted for his Lady's and his children's blood.

"The Prince that day not only releev'd but reveng'd the most noble Lady his cosen, leaving 1600 of her besiegers dead upon the place, and carrying away 700 prisoners. For a perpetuall memoriall of his victory, in a brave expression of his owne noblenesse, and a gracious respect to her Ladiships sufferings, the next day he presented her La'pp with 22 of those collours, which 3 dayes before were proudly flourisht before her house, by the hands of the vallient and truely noble Sr Richard Crane, w'ch will give honour to his Highnes and glory to the acc'on, soe long as there is one branch of that auncyent and princelye familye which his Highnes that day preserved."

Rushworth's *Collections* of eventful records during the Civil Wars of Charles I. and Cromwell's times, contains much the same information, but calculates the Prince's army to be 10,000 strong. A party of the horse of the Royal besieger broke in the town at the "Private Acres," and they being once got in, "every one endeavoured to shift for himself." The forces of the Prince, the record runs, rushed in on all quarters, and put great numbers to the sword, "pursuing the victory not only in the town, but some miles round, in out-houses, fields, highways, and woods, killing, destroying, and spoiling almost all they met with; and, as the townspeople alleged afterwards, denying quarter, and using other violences, besides totally plundering the town, and slaying four ministers." It is stated that when the Prince sent an officer to summon the town, the officers not only refused, but in defiance caused one of the Prince's captains, whom they had taken not long before, to be hanged in his sight.

A totally different construction is put upon the mode of assault upon the town in a Cavalier's* account: "When first the Prince came to the town, he sent a summons to demand the town for the King, but received no answer but from their guns, commanding the messenger to keep off at his peril. They had raised some works about the town; and having by their intelligence learnt that we had no artillery, and were only a flying party (so they called us) they contemned the summons, and showed themselves upon the ramparts ready for us. The Prince was resolved to humble them, if possible, and take up his quarters close to the town. In the evening he ordered me to advance with one regiment of dragoons, and my horse to bring them off, if occasion was, and to post myself as near as I possibly could to the lines, yet so as not to be discovered. And at the same time, having concluded what part of the works to fall upon, he draws up his men on two other sides, as if he would storm them there; and on a signal I was to begin the real assault on my side with my dragoons, making them creap upon their bellies a great way, that we could hear the soldiers talk on the walls, when the Prince believing one regiment would be too few, sent me word that he had ordered a regiment of foot to help, and that I should not discover myself till they were come up to me. This broke our measures; for the march of the regiment was discovered by the enemy, and they took the alarm. Upon this I sent to the Prince to desire he would put off the storm for that night, and I would answer for it the next day; but the Prince was impatient, and sent orders we should fall on as soon as the foot came up to us. The foot marched out of the way, missed us, and fell in with a road that leads to another part of the town; and being not able to find us, made an attack upon the town themselves; but the defendants, being ready for them, received them very warmly, and beat them off with great loss. I was at a loss now what to do; for hearing the guns, and by the noise knowing it was an assault upon the town, I was very uneasy to have my share in it; but I resolved punctually to adhere to the execution of orders; and mine being to lie still until the foot came up with me, I would not stir if I had been sure to have done ever so much service. However, to satisfy myself I sent

* "The Cavalier" account is supposed to be from the pen of Daniel De Foe.

to the Prince to let him know that I continued in the same place expecting the foot, and none being yet come, I desired further orders. The Prince was a little amazed at this, and finding there must be some mistake, came galloping away in the dark to the place, and drew off the men, which was no hard matter, for they were willing enough to give it over.

"As for me, the Prince ordered me to come off so privately as not to be discovered, which I effectually did, and so we were baulked for that night. The next day the Prince fell on upon another quarter with three regiments of foot; but was beaten off with loss. At last, the Prince, resolved to carry it, doubled his numbers, and renewing the attack with fresh men, the foot entered the town over their works, killing, in the first heat of the action, all that came in their way; some of the foot at the same time letting in the horse; and so the town was entirely won."

This is from the personal knowledge of one who served under the Prince in the siege, and appears to give an account of events as were most likely to take place. Although he makes no mention of Lord Derby, he adduces more probable details of the difficulties of the Royalists before they were in full possession of the town. Certainly no two writers could be expected to describe the terrible scene alike, and perhaps all accounts are faithfully given from their various points of view.

The burial registers of the Parish Church have a sad story to tell of the third and last siege of Bolton. Certainly few entries have been made of the killed in proportion to what might naturally be expected. It has been recorded elsewhere that many of the slain were interred in obscure places, the Royalists burying the principal persons amongst their dead in the chancel of Bolton Church. Others of the Parliamentary party occur in one entry in the register, which is headed, "all these 78 of Bolton slayne the 28th of May, 1644." It may be presumed that on both sides no fewer than 1000 were killed. Hence the irretrievable loss of much valuable family data. However, as this is the only available source whence to obtain the names of those who died for their country (for friend and foe alike fought not for personal grievances, but for the welfare of their country), the several entries are here fully extracted from the Parish Register :—

28th May.—Wm: Bootle, Capt.; James Siddall, seriant; Nicho: Norres, serient; Thomas Cooke, Adam Rothwell, John Rothwell, Wm: Rothwell, Richard Morris, senior; Alex: Lightbowne, John Lightbowne, Roger Seddon Robt: Kirkall, Raph Dickenson, John Drap [? Draper] Robt: Mason, Alex: Mason, Raph Bordman, John Pomfrett, Rich: Robinson, John Aynsworth, Henry Brook, Tho: Russell, John Kirkall, Robt: Kirkall, Henery Wright, James Wright, John Brook, Rich: Haslome, Jorden Sharples, Wm: Makon, James Norres, Rich: Norres, Roger Hart, Edmund Haslom, with his sonne, Raph Leaver, Wm: Bolton, John Hobbs, George Smith, John Dobson, Hamlett Smith, John Norres, Henery Twist, Peter Blakloe, Jo: Greenehalgh, Wm: Yeate, John Edge, Rich: Wright, Gyles Morris, Tho: Grundy, Robt: Robinson, Lamuell [or Samuell] Harper, Jo: Bradshaw, gent., Arthur Wolfiftt, Wm Holland, Wm: Hardman, Rich: Marshall, Henry Seddon, Robt: Farnworth, George Holme, James Gorton, Tilsley Grundy, Wm: Harvye, Jo: Fletcher. Wm: Crompton, Wm: Isherwood et vx [and wife], Rich: Bolton, prentice, Tho: Kay, Robt: Dickson, John Crompton, Adam Hodgskinson, Wm: Hosken, Chr: Nuttall, vx [? wife of], Arthur Seddon, Chr: Neild, Wm: Wood, George Munday,—All these 78 of Boltonn slayne on the 28 of May, 1644.

No special entries have been made of others killed during the siege. In fact no entries of any kind are given until the 11th of June, in that lamentable year*

The taking of Bolton by the Royalists was not typical of

* The soldiers under Prince Rupert are said to have worn a blue dress faced with red, the mounted troops wore a kind of helmet or skull cap, called from its shape "a pot," and the officers wore broad-brimmed hats, decorated with plumes, with leather breeches, and high boots. The officers had swords, and the soldiers matchlocks, but some—especially of the Earl of Derby's tenantry—had pikes, billhooks, and pitchforks made with prongs, which were called "hobillers." A letter written about that time states that "Isaac Crompton, a blacksmith of Churchbank, was employed in making pikes to enable the people of Bolton to withstand interlopers who might present themselves in opposing their barricades." About the year 1642 the bayonet came into use, and was employed in the memorable siege of Bolton and other places during the Civil Wars. It is also said that during the time that Bolton was garrisoned by the Parliamentary army, the Parish Church was used as a storehouse for the troops. No trace of this is to be found in the extant records of the Church.

successive events. In the December of 1645 it was announced in the House of Commons that Lathom House had surrendered to the Parliamentarians after a siege of two years. This being the last place in Lancashire to come into their hands, the circumstance caused no little satisfaction to the opponents of the King. The *Perfect Diurnall* records the occurrence in stating that the whole County of Lancashire was "absolutely free and reduced under obedience of the Parliament,—the enemy [the Royalists] having not any one garrison in that County."

On the 9th of May, 1648, a declaration was issued from Bolton by Nicholas Shuttleworth, Hugh Bradshaw, Ughtred Shuttleworth, James Chantrell, Richard Radcliffe, and John Ashurst, and eleven others, on behalf of the officers and soldiers of the County Palatine of Lancaster, stating that they owned the Solemn League and Covenant, and that they would stand for the fundamental government of the Kingdom by King, Lords, and Commons, and setting forth that they loved, desired, and would much rejoice in the regal and regular government of his Majesty (Chas. I.); but as for Papists, Popish Persons, malignant abettors of former innovations, usurpations or oppressions, or any other disaffected persons which were in arms to disturb religion, righteousness and peace, they "from the bottom of their hearts" did detest, and with their lives and fortunes would endeavour to oppose them. They also declared against toleration of heresy and schism and whatsoever was contrary to sound doctrine and the power of Godliness. Neither would they be commanded as soldiers and officers, by any gentleman or officer of this County who would be in favour of anarchy in Church and State. It was requested by those who signed this declaration that all the ministers in the County, if they thought fit, should publish the same in their Churches to the congregations. There is no reason to doubt that, above all, the declaration, which had been written in Bolton, was read to the congregation assembling in the Parish Church of this town by either the Rev. John Harpur or the Rev. Richard Goodwin—most probably by the former. The execution of the King in the early part of 1649, and the virtual abolition of the Upper House of Parliament, did not, however, call forth any strong demonstration from the town.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

EXECUTION OF THE EARL OF DERBY.

Lord Derby Re-called from the Isle of Man: He leads an Attack at Wigan Lane and is Defeated—Battle of Worcester: Escape and Capture of Lord Derby: He is Tried and Condemned to Death—Appeals to Oliver Cromwell and Judge Bradshaw—No Respite Granted—Removal to Bolton: Scenes by the Way—Upon the Scaffold at Bolton Cross—Affecting Spectacle—Address by the Earl—Last Moments—Execution—Interment—Alleged Plot for Rescue.

IT is not necessary here to follow the course of events relating to the Earl of Derby during the seven years ensuing upon the third storming of Bolton. Suffice it to say that during the greater part of this interim he was in the Isle of Man, of which he was governor. He was commanded to return in 1651 from the Island by Prince Charles, who afterwards became King Charles II.

On the Earl's landing in England he mustered an army of 600 horse and proceeded against Wigan, himself leading the van with half his men; the rear was guarded by the remainder under the command of Sir Thomas Tyldesley. This conflict

took place in Wigan Lane, which gives the name to the battle. Sir Thomas Tyldesley fought desperately and encouraged his men by his own daring bravery; but all was unavailing to the Royalists, who lost not only the contest but some 300 men, including the King's faithful warrior—Sir Thomas himself. The Earl of Derby secreted himself for several hours and then escaped, disguised, with three companions, and proceeded to Worcester, whence he had had intimation of the decisive battle of the Disruption. The battle was fought on the 3rd Sept., 1651, and was won by Cromwell. The Prince went into hiding, though not until severely wounded. The Earl of Derby escaped, and with some forty followers wended his way to Lancashire, passing through Cheshire, where he came in contact with a company of Parliamentarian soldiers, who were proceeding to the relief of Worcester. After a little parley, the Earl and his party surrendered on quarter being given for life and conditions for honourable usage. But the Earl of Derby being now in the hands of the enemy, it is said that Bradshaw, Rigby, and Birch designed him too great a prize to be lost without revenge, and for their own private reasons, "Bradshaw, because he had denied him the Vice-Chamberlain's place at Chester, preferring Mr. Bridgeman, now Lord Bridgeman, before him; Rigby, because of his ill-success before Lathom House and Bolton; and Birch, because his Lordship had trailed him under a hay-cart at Manchester, by which he got, even among his own party, the deserved epithet of the Earl of Derby's carter. These three, assisted by Sir Richard Houghton, a rebellious son of a very loyal father, Sir Gilbert Houghton, representing to Cromwell how unsafe it would be not only to the country, but the whole nation, to suffer the Earl to live, secured a Commission to try the Earl by a pretended court martial."

On the 1st October, 1651, a Court was formed at Chester for the Earl's trial, and his judges were appointed. They included five colonels, three lieutenant-colonels, and eleven captains, besides the President—Colonel Mackworth, Betton Strange, Shropshire*. As before stated, his defence was most masterly and fearlessly spoken. He gave an ingenious answer to the articles exhibited against him, and substantiated his claim for

* *The History of the House of Stanley*, 1821 edition, gives Shrewsbury instead of Shropshire.

liberty on the grounds that Capt. Edge had given him quarter for life. He also pointed out that though not the first man he was the first peer ever tried by a court martial after quarter given under such circumstances. He inquired whether quarter was given him for a benefit or for a mischief, if for the latter, then it destroyed the faith of all men in arms. He had read for a maxim in war "that promises made by Kings and State Commanders ought to be observed inviolably, or else there never will be any yielding." This plea was of no avail, the sentence apparently being a foregone conclusion, for on the day of trial (*vide* "Farrington Papers," published by the Chetham Society), it is asserted, an official person in London, writing to certain Cromwellians resident at Hamburgh, ominously stated that "Derby will be tried at Chester and die at Bolton." The sentence reads :—

"1.—That James, Earl of Derby, is guilty of the breach of the said Act of the 12th of August last past, entitled 'An Act Prohibiting Correspondence with Charles Stuart or his party,' and so of High Treason against the Common Wealth of England, and is therefore worthy of death.

"2.—Resolved, &c., that the said James, Earl of Derby, is a Traitor to the Common Wealth of England, and an abettor, encourager, and assister of the declared traitors and enemies thereof, and shall be put to death by severing his head from his body at the market place in the town of Bolton, in Lancashire, upon Wednesday, the 15th of this instant October, about the hour of one of the clock of the same day."

On the Earl's plea being rejected by the Court an appeal was made by him to Cromwell as Lord General, in the following petition :—

"To the Right Honourable His Excellency the Lord General Cromwell.

"The Humble Petition of James, Earl of Derby, a Sentenced Prisoner in Chester,

"Shewing,

"That it appeareth by the annexed what plea your Petitioner hath urged for Life, in which the Court Martial here were pleased to overrule him, it being a matter of law, and a point not adjudged not presidented in all this Warre ; and the plea being only capable of Appeale to your Excellency whose wisdom will safely resolve it, and your Petitioner being also a Prisoner to the High Court of Parliament in relation to his rendition of the Isle of Man, in all he most humbly craves your Excellency's Grace, that he may as well obtain your Excellency's judgment on his plea as the Parliament's mercy, with your Excellencies favour to him, an he shall owe his life to your Lordship's service, and ever pray, &c.

"DERBY."

On the failure of this application, President Bradshaw was applied to, through the medium of his brother, Col. Henry Bradshaw, of Marple, one of the Earl's judges, and Lenthall, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and by one of the Earl's Chaplains. Besides these attempts at commutation Lord Strange actively engaged himself in the Earl's behalf. A letter to William Lenthall, Esq., the Speaker, is still extant in the Bodleian Library, from the Earl of Derby, and on the margin thereof these words are written: "Sr, I humbly beg the favour that the petition of a dyeing man, here enclosed, may by your favour be read in the house," The letter reads:—

"Sr,

"Being now, by the will of God, for ought I know, brought to the last minutes of my life, I once more most humbly pray the Parliament will be pleased to heare me before my death.

"I plead nothing in vindication of my offences, but humbly cast myselfe downe at the Parliament's feete, begging their mercy.

"I have severall times addrest my humble petitions for life, and now again crave leave to submit myselfe to their mercy, with the assurances that the Isle of Man shall be given up to such hands as the Parliament entrust to receive it: with this further engagement (which I shall confirme by sureties), that I shall never act or endeavour any thing against the establisht power of this nation; but end my daies in prison or banishment, as the house shall thinke fit.

"Sr, it is a greater affliction to me than death it selfe, that I am sentenct to die at Bolton; so that the nation will looke upon me as a sacrifice for that blood wch some have unjustly cast upon me; and from wch I hope I am acquitted in your opinions and the judgment of good men, having cleard my selfe by undeniable evidence.

"Indeed, at my triall it was never mentioned against me, and yet they adjudge me to suffer at Bolton, as if indeed I had bin guilty, I beg a respite for my life upon that issue, yt. if I doe not acquit myself from that imputation, let me die without mercy.

"But, Sr, if the Parliament have not this mercy for me, I humbly pray the place appointed for my death may be alterd, as that if the Parliament thinke it not fit to give me time to live, they will be pleased to give me time to die, in respiting my life for some time whilst I may fit my selfe for death; since thus long I have bin perswaded by Col. Duckenfield, the Parliament would give my life. Sr, I submit my selfe, my family, wife, and children, to the mercy of Parliament, and shall live or die, Sr,

Your contented and humble Servant,

"October 11, 1651." "DERBYE.

All was, however, unavailing. On the morning of the 14th October Lord Derby's departure for Bolton took place, his guard consisting of sixty horsemen and foot soldiers, fully armed, and in command of Captain Southeley. When near Hoole Heath, about half a mile out of Chester, the singular cavalcade paused on the desolate and unenclosed moor, and the Earl, alighting from his horse, embraced his two daughters, who had come out to meet him. Kneeling down on the road-side, he prayed with them, they weeping because it was the last interview with their beloved father on earth. People pressed upon the cavalcade more or less during the whole journey (by way of Leigh, Atherton, and Hulton), and it was feared more than

once that a rescue would be attempted. The party arrived safely in Bolton, where a large concourse of persons had assembled. Baggarley* says indeed, that Lord Derby, and with him his son Lord Strange, would have gone into the church at Leigh, to view Sir Thomas Tyldesley's grave, but was not permitted, nor to ride then upon his own horse. He was requested to ride upon a "little nagg," his guard being afraid the people would rescue "his lordshipp." "As we were going in the middle way to Bolton, the wind came easterly," Baggarley proceeds, "which my lordship perceived and said to me, 'There is a great difference betwixt you and me now, for my thoughts are fixed, and I know where I shall rest to-night. And every alteration moves you of this world, for you must leave me to go to my wife and children in the Isle of Man, and are uncertain where you shall be; but do not leave me if possible you can otherwise, until you see me buried, which shall be as I have told you.'" The narrator goes on to say that the condemned Earl reached Bolton "betwixt 12 and 1 of ye clock, on Wednesday, the 15th of October, the people weeping, praying, and bewayling him all the way from the prison at Chester to the place of his death. He was brought to a house in the towne,† near the Crosse (the Market Cross), whear the scaffold was rais'd, and as he passed he said '*Venio Domine*, I am prepared to fulfill Thy will, O my God. This scaffold must be my Crosse; blessed Saviour, I take it up willingly and follow Thee'; from thence going into a chamber with some friends and servants, he was advertized by the Commander-in-Chief that he had till 3 of the clock allow'd him to prepare for death; for indeed the scaffold was not ready, the people of the town and country generally refusing to carry so much as a plank, or strike a nayl, or to lend any assistance to that work, theyr cry being generally in the streets, 'O sad day! O wofull day! Shall the good Earl of Derby dye here? Many sad losses have we had in the warre, but none like unto this; for now the antient honour of our countrey must suffer here!'" Having called the people to pray with him, and rising again, the Earl spoke to them in a kindly tone, prayed with them a second time, "and never after shewed

* Rev. Humphrey Baggarley, Chaplain to the unfortunate Earl, and for whose account of the last hours of his lordship see *History of the House of Stanley*, part 3, Vol. II.

† The Man and Scythe Inn, on the southerly side of Churchgate, and still standing.

any sadness in his countenance. He told us that he was very willing to leave the world, being assured by the testimony of God's Spirit that he should be carry'd from trouble to rest and peace, from sorrow to joy, from death to life, and that death had no other bitterness in it to him, but that it took him from his dear wyfe and children, whom he humbly commended to the protection of a better Husband and a better Father, and that yet he did not doubt but that the General and they who sate in the seat of authoritie, would make provision for them, hoping that his death might satisfy all those who sought his life, whom he freely forgave, and desired God to do the like. Then calling for his son, he took his leave of him, and blessed him, which indeed would have grieved anyone's heart (though never so hardened) to see this tender parting of him with his son. This ended, he called the officer, and told him he was ready. On his way to the scaffold the people prayed, and wept, and cry'd aloud, to whom his Lordship, with a chearfull countenance and courteous humbleness, said, 'Good people, I thank you; and I beseech you still pray for me; and our blessed God return your prayers back into your own bosoms; the God of mercy bless you—the Son of God establish you in righteousness—and the Holy Ghost fill you with all comforts.'"

Several accounts of the Earl's later moments have been written, but one only will be given here. It is culled from a tract in the King's *Collection*—one stated to have been taken in shorthand by two clerks as it was spoken. Certainly all the reports have more or less the matter of the original notes running through them, but that given here appears to have more of that simple pathos which characterises the Earl's other compositions, and of the keen feeling which, from the tone of his Petition, would be likely to pervade him, when amidst the unexpected sympathy of his hearers he was so suddenly compelled to exclaim, "God be thanked! there is no man that revileth me!"*

The Earl was, says the report, "about two of the clock, brought forth to the scaffold, which was built at the Cross, part of that built with the timber of his own House of Lathom: there was not above a hundred lookers on besides Soldiers:

* "Tracts relating to Military Proceedings in Lancashire during the Great Civil War." Edited by Geo. Ormerod, Esq., for the *Chetham Society*, 1844.

presently after his coming on the Scaffold there appeared a great tumult (the occasion whereof not being certainly known), in appeasing of which there were some cut, many hurt, and one child killed. The Earle was no good orator, and the tumult put him out of speaking what he intended; he was much afraid of being reviled by the people of the town, but they rather pitied his condition. On coming to the foot of the Ladder to the Scaffold, he said, I am thus requited for my love, and he kissed the Ladder, and said, I do submit my self to the mercy of God; and when he was upon the Scaffold, he said,

Now that it pleaseth God to take away my life, I am glad to see that in this town, where some were made believe I was a Man of Blood, I was slandered to be the death of many. It was my desire the last time I came into this Country to come hither as to a people that ought to serve the King, as I conceive, upon good grounds. It was said that I was accustomed to be a Man of Blood, but it doth not lie upon my Conscience, for I was wrongfully belyed. I thank God I desire peace; I was born in Honour and I hope I shall dye in Honour: I had a fair Estate, and did not need to mend it; I had good friends, and was respected, and did respect; they were ready to do for me, and I

was ready to do for them; I have done nothing but as my ancestors, to do you good; it was the King that called me in, and I thought it my duty to wait upon his Highness to do him service.

"Then there arose a great tumult among the people; after which he said (looking all about him), I thought to have said more, but I have said. I cannot say much more to you of my good will to this town of Bolton, and I can say no more, but the Lord bless you, I forgive you all, and desire to be forgiven of you all, for I put my trust in Jesus Christ. And looking about him, he said, I did never deserve this hard measure from above. Honest friends (you that are Souldiers), my life is taken away after Quarter given, by a Council of War, which was never done before. And walking up and down the Scaffold, he said, The Lord bless you all; the Son of God bless you all of this town of Bolton, Manchester, and especially Lancashire, and God send that you may have a King again, and Laws. I die like a Christian, a Souldier, and Christ's Souldier.

"And sitting down in his chair, he said to a Souldier that had been his keeper, they are not ready (meaning the block was not ready), and bade him commend him to all his friends in Chester, and tell them he died like a Souldier; and causing the Coffin to be opened, he said, I hope when I am imprisoned in this, the Watchmen will not lie by me with their swords. And walking up and down the Scaffold, he looked about him and said, There is no man that revileth me, God be thanked.

"And looking upon them that were on the Scaffold, he said, What do you stay for? It is hard that I cannot get a block to have my head cut off. He, looking upon the Executioner,* said, Thy coat is too burly that thou canst not hit right, the Lord help thee and forgive thee. Then bowing to Mr. Henry Bridgeman† he said, They have brought me hither too soon, the block is not ready for me, Mr. Bridgeman; tell your brother I

* Believed by many to have been a small farmer living between Turton and Tottington, named Whowell.

† Rector of Wigan, afterwards Dean of Chester and Bishop of Man. He was younger son of John Bridgeman, Bp of Chester, the Manorial Lord of Great Lever. Henry, elder brother, was Sir Orlando Bridgeman. Another record says that this priest to whom the Earl of Derby spoke and bowed was Father Norris, whose real name was Clifton. He was born in Lancashire in 1611, and was first cousin to Sir Thomas Tyldesley, the Cavalier. Father Norris, *alias* Clifton, was the son of Sir Cuthbert Clifton, of Westby, Kt., by Anne, daughter of Thomas Tyldesley, of Tyldesley and Morleys, Esq. His maternal grand parent was a daughter of Christopher Anderton, of Lostock, Esq., a member of one of the leading Catholic families in the county.

take it as a great mercy of God that I am brought hither, for I might have dyed in the midst of a Battel, and have not dyed so well, for now I have time to make my peace with God.

"And turning to James Roscoe (one of the two Clerks that writ his Speech in shorthand), he said, Do you write what I say? It may be I say not well, but my meaning is good.

"And looking upon the block he said to one of his men, Lay down your neck upon the block, and see how it will fit, but he refused; and a Trumpeter that was upon the Scaffold, layd down his neck to try how it would fit; after that he layd down his own neck upon the block, and rose up again, and caused the block to be turned, and laying his neck upon it again, said, Do not strike yet. And when he rose up, he went about the Scaffold and said, I desire your Prayers, pray for me, the Lord blesse you all! the Lord blesse this poor Nation.

"Then he gave his handkerchiefs out of his two pockets to his servants. Then he kneeled down and prayed privately, and then layd down his neck upon the block, and said to the Executioner, When I lift up my hand, then give the blow; and just when he gave the sign, one of his servants said, Good my Lord, let me speak one word before, and looking up, he said, I have given you a sign, but you have ill missed it.

"And being upon his knees, he said, Honest friends, I thank God I fear not death; I rejoyce to serve God, my King, and Country; I am sorry to leave some of my Christian Friends, but I hope the Lord will keep them, and bless them: the Lord of Heaven bless my Wife and poor children, the Lord bless his People and my good King.

"And laying his head upon the block, he said, Let the whole Earth be filled with his Glory! and giving the last sign, by holding up his hand, his Head was severed from his Body with one blow.".

Though this is perhaps the most authentic report of the last scenes in the Earl of Derby's life, there are a few other notes of particular interest which ought not to be omitted in this record. In the account written by Mr. Greenhalgh, and placed amongst the collection of the Rev. Mr. Baggerley, it is said that the Earl, in going to a house in Bolton, near the Cross, said, on coming to the Cross, "This must be my cross." On alighting from his horse, he went into a chamber with some of his friends

and servants. The scaffold not being quite ready, "because the people of the town would not strike a nail, or give any assistance to it," he was granted until three o'clock to make himself ready, and this time he spent in prayer. When leaving the house for the scaffold the people "cried and prayed on every side," which was acknowledged by his lordship saying, "Good people, I thank you all." During the course of his speech he said, "I die for God, the King, and the laws," to which one of the troopers replied, "We have no king, and will have no lords." At these words the soldiers became afraid of mutiny, and were "scattered in the streets, cutting and slashing the people with their swords." During this tumult, and seeing he could not speak freely, although freedom of speech had been promised, the Earl turned to his servant, and gave him his papers, and committed him to let the world know what he had to say had he not been interrupted. These documents are most interesting throughout—recording events from the time of his trial, and professing his faith in "one only God, and in Jesus Christ His only Son;" asserting that he (the Earl) died "a dutiful son of the Church of England," as it was established in his late master's reign. After this he kissed the axe, and gave two pieces of gold to the headsman. He then caused the block to be turned and laid towards the Church, saying, "I will look towards Thy sanctuary whilst I am here, and hope to live in Thy heavenly sanctuary for ever hereafter." Placing his head upon the block he cried aloud, "Blessed be God's holy Name for ever and ever. Amen. Let the whole earth be filled with His glory." At one stroke with the axe the work was done, "after which nothing was heard in the town but sighs, sobs, and prayers." When the Earl's body was taken up and stripped, as he had directed, and laid in his coffin, there was thrown into it the following lines, by an unknown hand:—

Wit, bounty, courage, all three in one lie dead;
A Stanley's hand, Vere's heart, and Cecil's head.

On the following day, all that remained of the great Earl of Derby was conveyed to Ormskirk, and in the church there deposited to mingle with the ashes of his renowned ancestors.

Thus ended the life of one of the Manorial Lords of Bolton; his King's protector and his country's servant. In the

town made memorable by his hard-won victory it was his fate to die.

Tradition says that a plot was formed to rescue the Earl of Derby, previous to his execution. The story goes that Captain Seddon was present, privately armed, and that a supposed chaplain on horseback to whom his lordship spoke was the Rev. William Seddon, who was his juvenile friend and faithful companion in most of his troubles, and that the Seddons of Outwood, in Ringley, Prestolee, and Bolton, had formed a well-matured plan for a rescue, but finding it totally impossible of practical issue were obliged to relinquish so daring an enterprise.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

AFTER THE BATTLE—LOCAL VOLUNTEERS.

Collapse—Superstitions—A Great Flood—Riots in 1715*—Bolton and the Jacobites—The Rebellion of* 1745*—Insurgents in the Hulton District—Cheapness of Provisions—Court Baron—Bolton in* 1773*—Local "Races" and Cockfighting—Opening of the Canal to Manchester and Bury—Execution in Bolton—List of Charities—Loyalty of Boltonians—The Lord Nelson, Pitt, and Church and King Clubs—Society of Correspondence: "Detestation of French Republicanism"—Tom Paine's Effigy Burnt and his Works Publicly Destroyed—Bolton Female Union Society—Freemasonry Established—Waterloo Club—Marines Raised in Bolton—Loyal Volunteer Infantry—Light Horse Volunteers—Local Militia: Enthusiastic Demonstrations: Presentations of Colours—Disbandment—Revival of the Volunteer Movement in* 1859*—First Members of the* 27*th L.R.V.—*14*th Lancashire—Loyal North Lancashire Regiment—Artillery Volunteers—Yeomanry.*

LONG time elapsed ere Bolton and its people recovered from the shocks of the three assaults by the Royalists—the help afforded from a distance was not enough to steady local affairs, to give encouragement to the inhabitants, nor to lay the foundation of a comparative prosperity. Bolton reeled, indeed, from the effects of the avalanches of the Civil War until after the close of the Seventeenth Century and well on into the

Eighteenth. It could not be developed; while the religious animosities of the times retarded true unity and desires for progress. To be candid, we are afraid that Bolton lost much of its character for piety—that there was more than the usual proportion of wickedness in the town. Doubtless the effects of the presence of the military and followers in the town for years were lasting; committals to prison were frequent, and the magistrates had much trouble in putting down disorders and in deterring thieves and vagabonds from practising upon the innocent and unwary.

That Bolton did not escape from certain of the superstitions of the age is evident from a letter written by Ellis Bradshaw to a friend in London, entitled "A true Relation of the Strange Apparition seen in the Air on Monday, 25th February, in and about the town of Bolton in the Mores, in the County of Lancaster at mid-day, to the amazement of the beholders, &c." The pamphlet was printed in London in 1650, and contains eight octavo pages :—

"Yesterday being Munday, February 25, 1650, being our Market Day at Bolton, in the Mores in the County of Lancaster, betwixt ten and twelve of the clock, and much of that time there appeared to us, yea to all in the town, or in the way thither, that look so high, A white circle, compassing directly from the glorious sun shining in his strength (the skie being clear, and not overspread with clouds, or mist, &c.) straight into the North, as it were of a levell height, with the height of the sun, compassing round to the sun again, as if it had been a wall, and the sun a postern in the side of it. And besides the true sun, there appeared also a great way distant on either side the sun, a bright place in the aforesaid circle, not unlike in greatness to the true sun, but not so bright nor formable, but rather red and changeable, especially at its vanishing; like part of a bright rainbow, or as we call them, Weather-Galls, though far brighter, and more clear and splendrous to all beholders when they were at brightest. There appeared also in the northern parts of the same circle, two other likewise, which like bright places of the same colour, but not so bright and splendrous: All which four were set directly in the white circle, like so many postern towers in the walls of a city, a great way distant each from other. There appeared likewise directly over our heads, two fair rainbows in the clear skie, the one tending with either end of it, towards the two bright places, that were next to the sun, though they did not reach them. And the other tending with both its ends, as directly pointing to the other two places, that were in the Northern parts of the white circle, that shined also as hath been said; so that these two rainbows that were directly over our heads tendered with their backs together, and their ends directly one from the other; the one southwards, and the other northwards: the one as inclining to embrace the sun, and the other to embrace the North Pole. All these visible apparitions continued a great while, some say two hours, but of the certain time I am not certain, for I saw them not at first: but I saw them vanish by degrees away, beginning in the north; for the north side of the white circle began to vanish first, and then the two bright places in the north of the circle did also first vanish before the other, and so also did the north rainbow, and then by degrees the other also, so that the nearer to the sun was the longer visible, not only of the rainbows, but of the bright places and of the white circle."

Ellis Bradshaw gave as his opinion on the above remarkable phenomenon that it was "an admonition of some great displeasure, and of wrath kindled, that must be executed in its time and season."

Mr. William Smith, a herald, writing of his survey of Lancashire in 1588 said, "Bolton is 4 myles south-west from Bury, and standeth on a small brook, which four myles thence falleth into the Irwell." The "small brook" was a source of menace to Bolton in 1688. In this year there was a great storm in the town, and the lower parts were deluged to such an extent that the water gathering in a positive flood in the Croal or Crole Valley, and greatly damaged the old bridge at the foot of Church Bank—a bridge exceedingly narrow and inconvenient. There are two receipts for the repair of the bridge in consequence. One is for £1 1s. 6d., "being in payment for fylling and mending the Breach that the flood by excess of rain was made in Church Bank;" and the other for £2 3s. 0d., "in full payment for repareing the wall and other worke about the Churche Banke." That the local property was very limited at this period for assessment, for improvement, or any purposes, is shown by the fact that its full annual value was about £160 only.

Bolton was absolutely untouched by the rebellions of the Eighteenth Century. Within twelve miles of Bolton, that is to say in Manchester, great excesses were perpetrated in connection with the religious riots of the Summer of 1715; when in other Lancashire towns the greatest disorders prevailed, property being dismantled, and injury to the person inflicted, no destruction occurred in Bolton. In the Autumn the revolutionary tendencies came to a head in Scotland, the standard was raised there in behalf of the Pretender, and the northern counties of England were seriously disturbed, the Jacobite party being especially strong in Northumberland and Lancashire. Numbers of them encouraged the Scots to cross the border and to come into Lancashire, and actually joined them in Westmoreland and in North Lancashire. They were with the Scotch adherents of the Pretender when Preston was entered 10th November, and when the forces of the Crown scattered them shortly afterwards. Still, Bolton was little moved. Again, in 1745, upon the landing at Moidart of "Bonnie Prince Charlie," and during his march southwards for the "invasion" of England, Lancashire Jacobinism was active once more, and the rebel forces were swollen by men of the Palatinate, not a few joining the Pretender at Preston in November, also at Wigan

and Manchester. Bolton was by no means excited; the insurgents came no nearer than the Hulton district—when on the march from Wigan to Manchester, thence to Derby, and then during the retreat to Culloden, where Prince Charles' hopes were finally blasted. The town was quiet generally; it was scarcely moving in the middle of the Eighteenth Century. Its population in 1773 was 5,339; though in 1789 it was double that number owing to a marked impetus in trade. It is worthy of note that in 1745, beef, veal, and mutton were selling in Bolton at 2d. and 2½d. per lb., pork at 3d., bacon 4½d., that a sum of eighteen pence would purchase a goose, and eight pence a duck; eggs sold at 40 for a shilling. At the Bolton Market in 1787, beef, veal, and mutton were sold at 4½d. per lb., pork at 4d. and 5d.; the price of a goose had gone up to three shillings; for butter 9d. to 11d. per lb. was asked. Wheat, which was 28s. per quarter in 1745 was 49s. in 1797; potatoes were 3s. 6d. per load, and 20lbs. of apples and pears could be had for 1½d.* It was in the middle of the Eighteenth Century (1746) that a Court Baron—the powers for which were vested in the lords of the manor for the time being—was established "for the recovery of small debts under forty shillings," and was held on one day in every three weeks for thirty years, when it was discontinued, owing, Baines says, "to the Clerk having absconded and carried away part of the records."

Still dealing with the middle of the Eighteenth Century, "Bolton Races" were then firmly established. One announcement reads that there was to be run for on Wednesday, June 27th, 1753, "at Bolton in the Moors, in the County of Lancaster, a purse of gold, by any horse, &c., that never won above the value of ten pounds at any one time (matches excepted), all horses 14 hands to carry nine stone, and all above or under to carry or be allowed weight for inches; to pay six shillings entrance, and stakes to go to the second best." And, "on Thursday, the 28th, a purse of gold by any horse, &c., that never won above the value of eight pounds at any one time

* "The market of Bolton is supplied with oatmeal from Preston and Manchester. Jannock or oatmeal loaves is used by the people here. The cattle killed by the butchers consist of cushes fattened in Craven by the farmer. There are sheep brought here in abundance; also, Scotch cows from the Highlands are exposed for sale at certain periods. It was a case, and yet is true, that one cow used to be killed in Bolton, or, if two, the unsold beef used to be transmitted to the Bury market. The fruit and vegetables sold here come principally from Warrington and from the Manchester market."—Aiken, writing in 1795.

(matches excepted), to carry or be allowed as above. And on Friday, a purse of gold by any horse, &c., that never won above the value of twenty pounds at any one time (matches excepted), to carry or be allowed as above; to pay ten shillings entrance, and stakes to go as above." Horses so entered had to be entered and "measured" at the Boar's Head Inn. A chairman was always appointed prior to the holding of the races. No necessity, under the law then, to apply to the magistrates for a special licence to sell intoxicating liquors upon the ground—the permission of the Clerk of the races having been gained, and sixpence per day, or one shilling for the three days, paid, anyone could dispense drink and food and have a stall for the sale of various goods. Each evening there was an "assembly of ladies," as advertised.

Another source of amusement in the Eighteenth Century was cock fighting. Mains were contested in Manchester, Bolton, Wigan, Bury, Leigh, and other places openly, and subsequent to the issue of printed notices and advertisements. At one, in Manchester, July, 1778, between Mr. William Hulton's birds and those of Mr. Edward Ogden, 23 cocks fell in for the main and 21 for byes. The match was concluded a week afterwards, when the last of the 23 mains was won by Mr. Hulton's bird, which, we are gravely told, "immediately crew." Brave chanticleer! This was not the only battle promoted by Mr. Hulton and Mr. Ogden—birds belonging to them fought in other places and attracted eager throngs of spectators, among them not a few from Bolton. Occasionally a main was witnessed in the town, and great was the excitement evinced, while the stakes and the bets were alike heavy. Periodically, that is to say about once a fortnight, a cattle fair was held in Bolton year after year, and another source of interest was undoubtedly the coming and going of the mail coaches from various points. The ride between Bolton and Manchester was, at the latter end of the eighteenth century, three shillings. Post chaises were run at intervals from the Swan Inn to Manchester, and in the opposite direction to Chorley and Preston; another means of conveyance for many years being by boats launched upon the Bolton and Manchester and Bury Canal (opened in 1791), from Church Wharf. They were days of competition even then, the fares for the passage to Manchester at the beginning of the nineteenth century being not

more than eighteenpence in the fore cabin and one shilling in the after part of the boat. How the Parish Church bell was rung for the summoning of intending passengers has already been told. With regard to the canal, the proprietors met on the 20th September, 1804, at Manchester—after notice had been given as to the expediency of applying to Parliament for an Act to enable the Company to raise a sum of money to pay their debts and to complete the unfinished works of the canal—and on 9th April in the following year another notice was issued, stating an Act had been obtained and that a call of £10 per cent. had been made on each share. Since that time the canal has been improved from time to time by the Company, and is now the property of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. Superfluous to remark, passenger traffic upon the canal fell off as the railway system developed, and that the carriage of goods, minerals, and the like, decreased in volume also from a similar cause. The same observation applies with equal force to the coaches and the chaises here referred to.

Offences against the person and property continued rife in Bolton to the close of last century—violent assaults were not infrequent, rioting was not unknown, and croft breaking occurred very frequently. For such an offence one James Holland *alias* Lee, was publicly executed upon Bolton Moor, 19th September, 1786. He had stolen thirty yards of cotton cloth, valued at £3, from Mr. Thweat's croft at Burnden, and it was to make an example of him in a district where this class of wrong-doing was so rife that Holland's execution was fixed for Bolton instead of at Lancaster Castle. A large, though orderly, crowd of persons assembled and witnessed the close of the wretch's life. He died peacefully after acknowledging the justice of his sentence—facts upon which the Vicar of Bolton (Vicar Whitehead) did not fail to dwell in the Parish Church on the following Sunday.

If Bolton was rich in crime in those days it bore very favourable comparison with neighbouring towns in another respect—in its charities. There were the Gosnell Lectureship Charity, the Grammar School Charities, and the Hulton Charity. In addition to providing for the lecture by a Dissenting Minister in Bolton, for catechising and for preaching in Bank Street Unitarian Chapel, the latter Charity was the means of estab-

lishing a school for the free education of poor children, and in 1840 the Hulton School, Moor Lane, was re-erected at an expense of about £900, and teaching conducted within its walls until the transfer of scholars to Commission Street School. An annual subscription is paid also from the funds to the Bible Society, and the value of about £30 is distributed in clothing annually to poor people.* In 1714 Mr. Thomas Marsden willed £150 to trustees, "to be put out at interest, and the produce employed towards setting up and maintaining a charity school for poor children within the town of Bolton, so many as it would extend to, to be clothed and educated and instructed in the principles of religion, constantly to attend prayers in Bolton Church at all times when morning and evening service should be read there." A Charity School was opened in cottages off Churchgate in 1716; in 1797 a school building was inaugurated, the value of the bequest constantly increasing up to that time and onwards. The school was closed under the provisions of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, and Marsden's Scholarships are now held in connection with the Parish Church School. In September, 1734, Jane Astley made a bequest of £60, to be put out to interest for the purpose of providing clothing for the poor, and a further sum of £60 that a sermon might be preached in the Presbyterian Meeting House, Bolton, on the Fair Day of July, and a third sum of £60 for the provision of free seats in the chapel, and to go towards the minister's salary. The charity is now administered by the Trustees of Bank Street Chapel. A sum of £100, upon trust, was left by Susannah Brooks, in 1744, for the benefit of poor children; the charity has become extinct. In 1774, Thomas Cocker bequeathed the interest of £150 for the purchase of linen cloth, the same to be disposed of at the Parish Church "on the Sunday next after the 29th September in every year, immediately after divine service, to the poor and most needy people dwelling in the township of Bolton;" in 1780, James Greenhalgh left £100 to be invested for the behoof of the Manchester Infirmary and the purchase of linen cloth for poor householders in Little Bolton and Tonge; and Hannah Crompton made a bequest in 1784 of £150, to be placed at interest, that

* The brief outline here presented of the local Charities is from details supplied by Mr. J. K. Waite, the Bolton Public Librarian, and re-published in *Historical Gleanings of Bolton and District*, 2nd Series, pp. 130, 167.

linen cloth might be distributed in the Bolton Parish Church on the Sunday next after the 29th September. Adam Mort and Thomas Mort had then made bequests to the poor of Bolton; and John and Richard Wright had, in 1756, willed £10 for the teaching of children and the distribution of relief, whilst in 1764 Mary Stones had made a bequest of £100, after the rate of 3 per cent., for the preaching of a sermon annually on the three last verses of St. Mark, xiii., and for gifts to poor persons in Little Bolton, and for the provision of a dinner for the trustees of the charity. Two or three bequests were made also in favour of the poor, for disposal by the boroughreeves of Bolton; John Guest left a share of £500 to the poor of the town, but in 1828 the Charity Commissioners were not able to discover traces of the money, and in 1800 Richard Aspindell bequeathed to three trustees £100 upon trust to place the same out at interest for the purchase of underclothing for poor people in Bolton. This charity is still extant and appreciated. The Rector and officers of All Saints' Church receive interest from what is known as the Popplewell Charity of 1820. It was John Popplewell and Ann and Rebecca Popplewell who left in 1820 and 1834, the large bequests for scholarships and for providing the poor with food and clothing. The very lowest estimate of the Popplewell Charities is set down at £20,000. Mrs. Lum's charity, initiated in 1839, is still active, whereby a number of indigent aged poor are housed, clothed and fed, in property off Belmont Road, Sharples, whence the recipients were removed from what were known as the Lum's Almshouses, off Smith Street, Folds Road; the Ridgway Charity of £2000, founded in 1841, has led to the erection of the school in Bury New Road; Blair's Charity of £1250 is distributed annually in St. John's Church, and that bequeathed by Mr. Stephen Blair, likewise in July, 1870—one of £30,000—for a convalescent hospital, was put into practical operation by the opening of the magnificent institution near Birtenshaw, Turton. Full advantage has been taken of the bequest of £10,000 by Mr. James Eden, under will dated 6th February, 1873, in the erection of a home for orphans at Astley Bridge; the Chadwick charities are referred to elsewhere.*

Notwithstanding the condition of matters in Bolton at the

* See Chap. 46.

time of the outbreak of the Civil War, and for years afterwards; in spite of the fact that Bolton was the first town in the kingdom to raise a militia force to aid the Parliamentarian cause, there was always a strong, deeply-rooted feeling of loyalty towards the Throne, and the Constitution as represented by royalty. More than three hundred years ago, that is to say, in November, 1584, the magnificent sum of 2d. was paid for the ringing of the Parish Church bells on Coronation Day, and on numberless special occasions since the bells have been rung, and festivities held in keeping with some event important alike to the royal family of the day, and to the nation at large. When the Spanish Armada was expected upon the English shores, not only did the men of Bolton contribute to the watching and the watch fires upon the tall peak of neighbouring Rivington hill, but they willingly answered the call of Elizabeth, through Robert Barton, of Smithells, to swell the funds raised for defensive forces, and to increase the number of that body of 80,000, raised to drive back the proud dons of Spain. The bells were rung, for instance, upon Coronation days, and in celebration of great victories, and on the 29th March, 1789, a day set apart for thanksgiving for the recovery of George III. from his dangerous illness, the ringers ascended the tower of the Bolton Church and rung the bells right merrily. In the evening there were illuminations and festive boards, subscription lists were opened and the poor were fed, the inhabitants joining with spirit by roasting a sheep and distributing it, "with bread and a barrel of beer." When the fiftieth anniversary of the reign of George III. was celebrated in the country, Bolton bore its full share of the general rejoicings. Bells were rung, and processions formed, and dinners partaken of in more than one public-house; the principal procession of the day, 31st October, 1809, was to the Parish Church, where Vicar Bancroft officiated. The gentry of the town marched thither, so did boroughreeves and constables, the officers and men of the regiment of the line then quartered in Bolton, also a number of veterans of the 72nd Regiment, Masonic brethren (to be referred to shortly), Orangemen, and Sunday School children. A service was held in St. George's Church, too, and the Vicar, Rev. William Thistlethwaite, delivered the sermon before a great congregation. Not only did the leading inhabitants dine together that day, but the workpeople at various cotton mills and bleachworks were

invited by their employers to partake of roast beef and plum pudding, the proceedings of the day being wound up by a grand display of fireworks.

There was the Lord Nelson Club, as loyal as it was patriotic. The members had for a meeting place the Ship Inn, Bradshawgate, and in August of each year, in the early part of the present century, they met round the dinner table to drink the king's health, and to pledge in memory of Lord Nelson, the "immortal hero of the Nile." Had the Bolton Local Militia, or the Bolton Light Horse Volunteers done anything worthy of note during the preceding twelve months they were laudated likewise, Col. Ralph Fletcher, of the Foot, and Major Pilkington, of the Light Horse, coming in for particular mention. Nor was the Bolton Pitt Club, founded in 1809, behind in expressions of loyalty and patriotism. The Bridge Inn was affected at the club's anniversary for several years, and long was the toast list submitted to the company, who invariably drunk to their pet heroes in Church, State, upon the battle field and the ocean, the silence with which the more important propositions were received being most impressive. The members were hearty Unionists, as became sworn Pittites, and very earnest was the pledge to "the Rose, the Thistle, and the Shamrock, and may they ever continue united;" while the manner in which "Plenty in the land and loyalty in the people" was drunk was no less deep and touching than the vociferous fashion in which "The Lancashire Witches" were toasted. Whether the Bolton Pitt Club achieved anything away from the dinner table we will not stay to inquire. The Bolton Church and King Club was another institution in the town not to be lightly ignored. It could boast of an older birth than the Pitt Club, for was it not established in 1794, and were its meetings not held at the imposing Commercial Inn and the Bridge Inn respectively? At all events it had its anniversaries generally at the beginning of March, and its meetings for the discharge of business, pure and simple, and for the exchange of mutual congratulations upon some red letter day in the history of the reigning family or in the life of the country. The anniversaries were observed for 30 years. So loyal and patriotic were the Boltonians when "George the Third was King," that a body, having the peaceful and somewhat demure title of "A Society of Correspondence and Information, and for other

Salutary Ends," * could not be formed at a public meeting in the Bolton Grammar School, 13th December, 1792, without such resolutions as the following being passed, "That the admission of members into this society be confined to persons well affected to the Government of these realms;" "That the purposes set forth by the Crown and Anchor Society in London, be adhered to;" "That an attack perseveringly meditated against our most excellent Constitution and the common welfare challenges the serious attention of every sober mind, and demands the most vigorous measures to be adopted in defence of our menaced freedom;" "That we do, by an active exertion, co-operate with the Executive Department, and with our brethren associated in the same noble cause for mutual protection and the general safety;" "That it is the avowed determination of this Society to counteract, with all possible diligence, the circulation and increase of seditious and wicked writings, tending to disaffect the minds of His Majesty's subjects, and to render them dissatisfied with the present form of Government; to discover and report the authors, printers, publishers, and distributors of such writings; and to provide and dispense within our respective neighbourhood doctrines of a conciliatory, peaceable, and loyal tendency." The meetings of this Society were held at the Nag's Head, and we can well imagine how the members would rejoice on the 12th day of January, 1793, when, to mark their "detestation of French Republicanism" and the teachings of Socialists and infidels, they publicly burnt the effigy of Tom Paine in the Market Place, Churchgate, while an assembly of Loyalists and Constitutionalists frantically demonstrated their hatred of revolution and religious unbelief. Nor was this all. The subscribers to the Bolton Public Library were the means of Tom Paine's works and others of a like character being brought out and burnt upon the same day and in the same Market Place. Again, these Loyalist Club-men promoted a demonstration in the town to mark their gladness in connection with the refusal of Parliament to repeal the Tests and Corporation Acts. In March of 1796, and upon the anniversary of the rejection of the measure by the Commons (in 1770), the Church and King Club, the members of the Society of

* The Committee included Messrs. Robert Bolton, Benjamin Rawson, Ralph Fletcher, William Hulton, Robert Andrews, Roger Dewhurst, Matthew Fletcher, T. Rasbotham, Wm. Cockshott, Jno. Ridgway, James Fletcher, Richard Ainsworth, Peter Rothwell, Robert Dean, Peter Ainsworth, John Horridge, and Nathaniel Bolling.

Correspondence and Information and for other Salutary Ends, met their friends and the local Volunteers upon the Market Place, exchanged greetings, dispersed to clubrooms, dined, pledged in the cup which *does* inebriate, and—separated! In the rules of one Society established in this same month of March and this same Year of Grace 1796, we find no mention of loyalty to the Throne and the upholding of the Constitution. It was termed "The First Female Union Society in Bolton." They were loyal, too, we may presume, in spite of the omission. Their place of assignation was the Hand and Banner Inn.

MAN AND SCYTHE, CHURCHGATE.

Years before a number of these clubs were established another association had been formed in Bolton—one stronger at this day than at any previous time. From a work on local Freemasonry* we find that the Anchor and Hope Lodge of Freemasons was "warranted" at Bolton, 23rd October, 1732, on petition, the dispensation being granted to "our right worshipful and well-beloved brother Mr. Edward Entwisle," a mercer in the town. The only lodges meeting in Lancashire at that

* *History of "the Anchor and Hope" Lodge of Freemasons*, by G. P. Brockbank and James Newton, 1882.

period were No. 48, meeting at Salford, and No. 87, which assembled at Leigh. The early records of the lodge include "paid to Mr. Brown for ale, before we must take the old box away which contained some old utensils, as for instance candlesticks, 10s.; a mallet and a square cost 6d., ten yards of 'ferriting' at 1s. 8d., a level square and plumb rule 2s., and two brothers in distress, 2s." Down to the year 1776 "the minutes, though very brief, carefully record the initiations, passings, and raisings in the lodge, as also the makings of royal arch masons, and the half-yearly elections and installations of master and officers." From 1776 to 1798 seventy-six gentlemen were admitted members, and the lodge has been well sustained in numbers to the present day. Originally fostered in a private room opposite to the Man and Scythe Inn, Churchgate, the lodge was held for thirty-five years at the Hope Inn; from 1800 to 1844, the meeting place was the Legs of Man Inn and the Four Horse Shoes. From 1844 to 1866, the brethren of the craft met at the Swan Hotel; from 1866 to 1879 at the Church Institute, and the members were back again at the Swan Hotel from the last-named year until the well-fitted rooms in Institute Street, and known as the Masonic Hall, were occupied. It should be stated that from the years 1765 to 1882 there were upwards of 456 initiates.

While the old minutes of the Anchor and Hope Lodge are few in number, those relating to the "Lodge of Antiquity," the warrant for which is dated 24th June, 1776, are more profuse. In a printed sketch of the lodge's history,* Mr. James Newton tells us that it was agreed the lodge meet at the Crown Inn. The first seven names appearing in the old register are, James Taylor, portrait painter; Thomas Clarke, fustian maker; Peter Bentley, innkeeper; Hugh Woods, weaver; Bold Halliwell, weaver; Richard Worthington, aleseller; and Wm. Wild, also an "aleseller." On one occasion, for instance, the lodge was "opened at six o'clock on the first step. Brother James Hodgkinson, Master Mason, of No. 393, Manchester, initiated in this, and then closed on the first step in good harmony. Immediately afterwards opened on the second step, and Brother Hodgkinson was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft; closed upon the second step, about half-past seven o'clock. Eight o'clock opened on the

* Published in the year 1882.

third step. Brothers Aldcroft, Morris, Finney, Jas. Robinson, Thomason, and Hodgkinson, were duly named to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Brother Gilbert Robinson, of 224, from Manchester, attended as a visitor, and gave the Entered Apprentice Lecture. Closed upon the third step of Masonry about half-past nine in good harmony."

On the 20th April, 1797, the St. John's Lodge (now No. 221) was formed in Bolton, the meeting place being the Hand and Banner Inn. The ceremony of opening was attended by much ceremonial and with occupation of a less serious kind, as these entries will show: "Call'd from labour to refreshment and from refreshment to labour at 2 o'clock;" "Call'd from labour to refreshment at 20m. after 2 o'clock, then toasted the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge, call'd from refreshment to labour." James Abel was Grand Master; Thomas Walker, Grand Sen. Warden; Robt. Mausley, Grand Jun. Warden; and Jas. Gradwell, Grand Secretary. The Lodge was very active, and on more than one occasion "the Feast of St. John" was observed. On the 1st January, 1802, the brethren attended St. George's Church, the use of which was granted by the Rev. Mr. Snape, Vicar, and had as guards, men of the 17th Light Dragoons, at that time in Bolton. At the celebration of the Jubilee of King George III., 25th October, 1809, the members of the St. John's went, with other Freemasons in the town, to St. George's Church; they visited the same church on a more melancholy occasion, 7th March, 1810, when the funeral of Brother Rowbotham, P.M., took place. In 1812, absentees from lodge meetings were excused from fines, many of them being "on military and other duty," "on account of the town and neighbourhood being in a disturbed state," and further leniency was shown to those who were away on garrison duty as Militia or Volunteer Cavalry later on. Evidently the St. John's Lodge was loyal and patriotic to the core. Indeed, the lodge was always to the fore when there were public ebullitions of feeling towards the Crown, the Country, and the Church.

At the close of the Peninsular War, Bolton caught the contagion of rejoicings, and celebrated the triumphs of the British Army under Wellington, by illuminating the town, holding a public dinner and a grand ball, the festivities extending over three days. On the 21st January, 1816, a public thanks-

giving service was held in the Parish Church. Waterloo had then been fought, Napoleon was once more a prisoner, and peace reigned supreme. Headed by Colonel Fletcher and the band of the regiment, the Bolton Local Militia marched to join in the service and to hear a sermon from Vicar Brocklebank, *feus-de-joie* and volleys being fired afterwards in the presence of the gentry and other inhabitants. What wonder that three months subsequent to Thanksgiving Day the Bolton Waterloo Club was constituted at the Commercial Inn, and thus added to the list of local loyal and patriotic societies, The great wave of discontent which spread over the land in 1818 and 1819, in consequence of the blighting effects of prolonged fighting and distress, affected Bolton seriously. The "loyal and patriotic party" were to the fore, however, and on the 19th July, 1819, they met under the presidency of Thomas Blundell, Esq., constable of Great Bolton, and passed resolutions that it was highly expedient for good and loyal subjects to unite in supporting the Constitution and the laws of the land for the preservation of the public peace; that the meeting viewed with detestation and horror the revolutionary principles that had been promulgated in the country, and especially in several towns in the neighbourhood of Bolton; and that a declaration on the situation be signed by the magistrates of the division and boroughreeves and constables of Great and Little Bolton. The declaration set forth that the signatories were seriously impressed with a sense of the danger which threatened the community through designs and practices of the disaffected, and deemed it indispensably necessary to declare their determination to support the Constitution of the country, and to co-operate with the local authorities of the town of Great and Little Bolton for the preservation of the public peace, and they earnestly called upon their fellow townsmen to join them in taking every measure which the urgency of the case might demand "to accomplish these most desirable objects." Among the names attached were those of Ralph Fletcher, William Hulton, James Watkins, and Joseph Ridgway, magistrates of the division; Richard Ainsworth and John Pilkington, deputy lieutenants; William Crompton, high-constable; Thomas Blundell and John Stanton, constables of Great Bolton; John Crook and John Simpson, constables of Little Bolton; and Revs. J. Slade, R. Bullock (All Saints'), and W. Thistlethwaite (St.

George's), with Messrs. Peter Ainsworth, Peter Rothwell, Edward Bolling, Thomas Rushton, John Bolling, J. K. Watkins, Oliver Ormrod, Matthew Fletcher, Walter Paulton, Wm. Bolling, Thos. Ridgway, and W. Bridson.

But the great pride and glory of the loyalists and patriots of the town at the close of the Eighteenth Century and the early years of the Nineteenth lay in the local Militia and Volunteers. We have seen how that Bolton was ever ready to send her sons, and that they were willing to go, to join in the battles for home and country, and no one is surprised to learn that the martial, loyal, and patriotic spirit which animated our forefathers of long-past years has been sustained without abatement. In 1793 a company of 160 marines, known as the Bolton Marines, were raised by gentlemen of the town and surrounding districts, and proceeded to Chatham for active service, to give Napoleon and his soldiers a warm reception should they invade our shores. In the following year two companies of Loyal Volunteer Infantry Corps were constituted in Bolton under Captain Peter Rasbotham, for the defence of "home and beauty." In January, 1795, the Volunteers were mustered in full force, and to them were presented by Vicar Bancroft, Chaplain, handsome silk colours, subscribed to by the ladies of the town. Lieutenants John Ridgway and Thomas Ainsworth were in charge of the *corps de reserve*, who advanced to receive the tokens of good will. In return, a public breakfast was given to the lady subscribers to the gift, and during the morning there was a church parade. A square was formed in the chancel, the lieutenants carrying the colours being with the Chaplain, in the centre, when prayer was offered, and before the dispersal the Vicar preached from the words "When the enemy shall come like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." In the Market Place, at the close of the service, three volleys were fired, thence the Volunteers went to a field for exercise, returned into town to dinner, and in the evening enjoyed themselves at a ball given in their honour. In June of 1796 they manœuvred before Colonel Stanley and John Blackburne, Esq., members of Parliament for the county, and were warmly commended. In connection with the proceedings was the indispensable dinner with the regulation toasts, a very fashionable company meeting in the Assembly Room, at the junction of Mealhouse Lane and Chancery Lane.

On the 16th March, 1798, the Bolton Volunteers were assembled to hear the reading of a Circular Letter from the Secretary of State, requesting to know if they would extend the limits for which they were first embodied, when they unanimously agreed to follow their officers wherever they should be required in case of imminent danger or actual invasion. This courage elicited the admiration of ladies of the town and neighbourhood, which culminated in the gift of a pair of elegant standards on the 19th July in the following year, the presentation being made by Mrs. Pilkington, in company with Mrs. Carlile and Mrs. R. Ainsworth. The colours were afterwards consecrated by the Rev. John Atkinson, Chaplain of the corps.

That the Government might be assisted in the war with France subscriptions were organised in all parts of the country, and the movement was taken up nowhere more vigorously than in this town. A meeting of the inhabitants was convened for the Vestry of the Bolton Parish Church,* and in March, 1798, resolutions of a most patriotic character were passed. First, "That it is the duty of every Englishman in the present situation of his country to manifest his loyalty and attachment to the utmost of his ability." Second, "That being impressed with a sense of the peculiar dangers which threaten the national independence of Great Britain, and that extraordinary resources are necessary to maintain it, the parishioners of Bolton will join their endeavours with the rest of their countrymen in promoting the general voluntary contribution, and that they will recommend it to the respectable inhabitants of every township throughout the parish to forward the same with all possible zeal and despatch." Third, "That the book containing the names of those who have contributed be deposited in the Parish chest as a public record to succeeding times of the loyalty and constitutional spirit of the parish of Bolton-le-Moors." The commissioned officers of the Bolton Volunteers raised £400, the non-commissioned officers and men gave liberally, and there were subscriptions of varying amounts from every township almost around Bolton. In that year (1798) there were four companies of Volunteers. Promotions had been made, and the officers stood :—Lieutenant-Colonel, Peter Rasbotham; Major, Ralph Fletcher; Captains, Pitt Hewitt, Jno. Ridgway, Richard Ains-

* From Notes appearing in the *Bolton Weekly Journal.*

worth, and Thomas Ainsworth; 1st Lieutenants, Wm. Gray, James Pearson, and John Williams; 2nd Lieutenants, Stephen Heelis, Jno. Gardner, Henry Horrocks, and Robert Bolton; Adjutant, James Warr; Chaplain, Thomas Bancroft; Lieutenant-Major, Samuel Wilde.

In 1798, too, there was a further increase of strength in local volunteer circles. Bolton had raised footmen in the Marines and the Loyal Volunteer Corps—it must now have horsemen. Accordingly, on the 28th March, the first members of Bolton Light Horse Volunteers were enrolled, and Major John Pilkington was soon placed at the head of two troops. It was the pleasure of Mrs. Pilkington to consent to a request that she present two beautifully worked silk banners, provided by the ladies, to the corps. On 19th July, 1799, the ceremony was performed in the Market Place—whither a number of ladies had been met and escorted by a party of horsemen—after breakfast had been partaken of by the officers and those of a corps of Mounted Infantry raised at Little Lever, on the invitation of Mrs. Pilkington. At the presentation this lady was supported by Mrs. Carlile and Mrs. R. Ainsworth. Cornets Wright and Boardman received the flags and Major Pilkington suitably replied. Rev. John Atkinson, Chaplain of the corps, offered prayer and addressed the Light Horse. Three volleys having been fired the ceremony was at an end, upon which the Colours were taken to the Theatre, and the inevitable dinner and ball ensued.

The muster roll of the corps for 12th June, 1805, contains the names of members of many of the leading local families of the day—the regiment was made up in a great measure of gentlemen of standing. There were Major Pilkington, Captain Fletcher, Lietenant Wright, Cornet Boardman, Adjutant Mawdsley, Chaplain Snape, Surgeon Bolling, Quarter-Master Morris, Trumpeter Lonsdale, Sergeants Harrison, Birch, Dawes, W. Smith, W. Greenhalgh, Jno. Smith; Corporals Cockshott, Travers, Fowler, Jos. Addison, Robt. Ainsworth, Jno. Bairstow, Josiah Phethean, Geo. Slater, and sixty-eight privates. The corps was disbanded 5th April, 1816, upon the restoration of peace and after being specially thanked for their services by the Prince Regent. That the corps was appreciated is shown by the fact that whenever they appeared in the public thoroughfares they were heartily cheered, and upon the return from training of three

weeks or a month from Preston, they were more than once met at Horwich by the boroughreeve, constables, and other gentlemen of Bolton, upon horseback, and greeted upon arrival in the town with enthusiasm. On the 18th September, 1814, the corps sustained a heavy loss by the death of Captain William Wright, in his fortieth year. He was one of the oldest of the officers, and to him a public funeral was accorded at Breightmet. A marble tablet was erected in St. George's Church to Captain Wright by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of his regiment.

In little more than three years after the disbanding of the Light Horse Volunteers, Bolton again possessed its Cavalry. The country was unsettled in, as just stated, 1819, owing to bad trade, agitation for reform, and a spirit of lawlessness that seemed to pervade. Bolton had a second meeting of loyalists in the matter. This was in August, and in September a number of gentlemen met to consider the best means of raising a troop of Yeomanry Volunteers. Mr. James Kearsley took a prominent part in the deliberations, and when a troop was actually constituted and the Prince Regent formally accepted the services of the members early in January, 1820, Mr. Kearsley had been appointed Captain Commandant. In the June following the Lord Lieutenant further approved of Captain Kearsley being commandant; Mr. Peter Rothwell was gazetted captain, Messrs. P. Rothwell, jun., H. Smith, and T. Merrey lieutenants, and Messrs. W. Taylor and J. Langshaw cornets. At the end of the month the members of the troop underwent a course of fourteen days' training at Blackpool. On returning by road and reaching the township of Heaton (the usual route, and practically the only one, being still, and for years afterwards, Old Chorley Road) they were met by public officials and many private inhabitants of Bolton, with the local Militia band. The troop, numbering eighty men, dined subsequently in the town, Mr. Isaac Dobson, boroughreeve, presiding. In September of the same year the troop commenced to exercise upon the Smithells estate of Mr. Richard Ainsworth. Down to the present date the grounds of the owner of Smithells for the time being have always been open to the local troop of Yeomanry. To-day, Mr. Richard Henry Ainsworth, J.P., of Smithells, holds the rank of colonel in the Duke of Lancaster's Yeomanry—a corps with which the Bolton and Worsley troops

have, from the first almost, been associated. It is worthy of note, too, that Captain Percy Hargreaves, of the Bolton troop, is grandson of Mr. James Kearsley, the first commandant of the local Yeomanry Cavalry. To his generosity and lively interest the Bolton troop owes the erection of the spacious riding school and buildings situate near Chadwick Orphanage, Haulgh. The premises were opened 12th April, 1890. The annual training ground for the troop is at Lancaster.

Under the National Defence Act returns were to be made of men and material available, and at a meeting in Wigan, 27th July, 1803, the Lord Lieutenant of the County (Earl Derby) presiding, it was stated that in the Palatinate, including the Bolton area, there were 14,382 men between the ages of 15 and 60 (though many were incapacitated); 1413 men were willing to serve on horseback; 4699 would serve and provide firelocks; 2156 could be provided with arms at the general assembly; there were 137 swords, pistols, and pitchforks available; number of pioneers and labourers with felling axes, pick-axes, spades, shovels, mattocks, and saws, 2607; number of guides and overseers for the removal of wagons and live and dead stocks, 1117. The live and dead stocks to be had included 17 oxen, 8533 cows, 2860 young cattle and calves, 3084 sheep and goats, 4764 pigs, 390 riding horses, 1993 draught horses, and 1276 carts, in addition to large quantities of wheat, hay, straw, and oats. Major John Pilkington was boroughreeve in Bolton that year, and he presided at a public meeting 15th August, when it was decided to raise a Volunteer Corps of one thousand men,* in the town and district, and that "such townships as do not furnish their quota of volunteers shall pay six guineas for each man deficient of their respective quotas. When men are found, each township to pay four guineas for each man for clothing; in both cases to be subject to their proportion of such expense as may hereafter be necessarily incurred." The Committee appointed to carry out the scheme comprised Mr. Thos. Ainsworth, Rev. Thomas Bancroft, and Messrs. James Bradshaw, Jas. Carlile, Jos. Crompton, Thos. Crompton, Jno. Edge, Thos. Fogg,

* The Loyal Bolton Corps was disbanded 6th May, 1802, owing to the dispersal of war clouds abroad. The banners were publicly deposited in the Parish Church on that day, and on the 7th came the dinner, on the 13th another feast; and mementoes in the shape of silver cups were presented to Colonel Rasbotham and Major Fletcher respectively, by the non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment.

Thos. Hindle, Edmund Howarth, Thos. Howell, and Robert Knowles, Colonel Rasbotham, Mr. Thos. Ridgway, and Mr. John Whitehead. The requisite force was raised without difficulty. Mr. Ralph Fletcher was appointed lieutenant-colonel, and was found with his regiment at Warrington and Chester, living the life of the regular service for weeks in succession. Being drafted into the local Militia, the corps served, in 1814, in garrison duty in Manchester at a time when they were greatly needed, because of the summons of nearly all the regular soldiers to gather for the final overthrow of the ubiquitous and seemingly unextinguishable Napoleon Bonaparte. A flattering welcome awaited the return of the Volunteers, or, rather, the local Militia, to Bolton, authorities and populace doing them every honour by word and deed. There were ladies in carriages, the high constable of Bolton, and the boroughreeves of Great and Little Bolton, chairman and members of the Reception Committee, Freemasons, and Oddfellows, the Light Horse Volunteers, brave in bearing and seated upon well-bred steeds, bringing up the rear, while an enthusiastic and expectant populace flocked from every side as far as Moses Gate, where the meeting took place, amid the heartiest huzzas of all onlookers. Back in Bolton there were dinner parties and mutual congratulations, and not until a late hour did the festivities and rejoicings terminate. That the regiment was as orderly as it was able is evidenced by the reports of Major-General Mahon, who conducted the inspection in Manchester. He was highly satisfied, he said, with the good appearance and movements of the corps. He was anxious too to express his sense of the very steady and orderly conduct of the regiment during the period it had been employed on garrison duty in Manchester. Upon the conclusion of peace in 1815, the regiment, which was highly eulogised, was disbanded, and arms, accoutrements, and colours were sent into store at Chester. The colours lay there until 1860, when they were taken down and brought to hang in the Bolton Parish Church.

Not until 1859 was anything more seen in Bolton, in a practical sense, of the Volunteer movement. The years intervening to 1853 were years of profound peace as regarded England and the Continental powers. The Crimean War denuded this country of her soldiery, and when at the close of the dread campaign, and the Indian Mutiny had broken out, fears

were expressed for the safety of our Island and the Empire, a call was made for the constitution of regiments of Volunteers, Bolton was not slow to answer. On the afternoon of 13th July, 1859, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Little Bolton, in response to a circular issued by Mr. Arthur Bailey. Mr. John Fletcher presided. It was unanimously agreed to enrol one or more Volunteer Rifle Companies of 100 men each for Bolton and its neighbourhood, and that a subscription list be opened, and a Committee formed consisting of the following :— Messrs. Jno. Fletcher, Jas. Hardcastle, Peter Ormrod, Jno. Hick, Thos. Cross, Jas. Ormrod, Wm. Hargreaves, Jas. Eden, S. Bancroft, A. Greg, T. L. Rushton, P. R. Arrowsmith, Thos. Barnes, Edward Barlow, Geo. Wolstenholme, Benj. Dobson, Stephen Blair, W. Rideout, Majors Pilsworth and Langshaw, and Captain Wm. Gray. Major Pilsworth (who was in command of the local Pensioners) was entrusted with the chairmanship of the Committee, and Mr. A. Bailey and Mr. James Watkins were appointed secretaries. The Major was invited also to take the lead in the direction of the newly formed regiment, but as he was an officer on full pay the War Office would not consent to the appointment. John Hick, Esq., was then asked to take the command. He declined, however, and Mr. Arthur Bailey was approached and consented, Mr. James Cross Ormrod being elected ensign. The first members of the company (formally instituted 15th November) were enrolled in the following order : —Messrs. Arthur Bailey, J. H. Knowles, Chas. F. Ainsworth, S. Crowther, John Bayley, Chas. Bayley, F. S. Nicholson, Jas. Cross Ormrod, Thos. Wilkinson, F. Greenhalgh, Wm. Watkins, Jos. Thwaites, W. E. Brown, Robt. Settle, W. H. Pendlebury, Robt. Knott, Thos. F. Wallwork, Chas. Holt, Wm. Wilson, Jas. Pendlebury, Arthur Greg, Leonard Wild, Thos. Winder, Richard Hughes, Robert Horridge, Jno. Wrigley, Chas. Crook, J. N. Parker, Jos. Slater, Jas. L. Bayley, Thos. Ratcliffe. A sum of £500 was subscribed, and drill was commenced upon the Bolton Grammar School premises, distance shooting being subsequently inaugurated at Bradshaw and upon the range still in use. There was drilling also at Lum's Factory and the Cattle Market. Light grey tunics were worn for thirteen years, a number of them being purchased in the first instance by members themselves.

On 6th April, 1860, a communication was sent from the

War Office intimating that Her Majesty approved and accepted the services of the corps, and that it had been incorporated with the 27th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, the maximum establishment to consist of 1 major, 4 captains, 4 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 1 adjutant, 1 surgeon. There were to be 400 men of all ranks, divided into four companies. In the words of Captain O. L. Perry, who wrote in 1886 a short history of the Volunteer movement in Bolton, "Mr. A. Greg was appointed paymaster, with proper regimental rank, Dr. Settle was elected surgeon to the corps, and the Vicar of Bolton filled the post of hon. chaplain. It was resolved that on the last Sunday in March, June, September, and December in every year the regiment should attend morning service at the Parish Church. On the 11th August, 1860, our local regiment experienced their first great field day, taking part in the memorable Newton Review, an occasion which will never fade from the memories of those then and there present." Eight thousand Volunteers were upon the field. Unhappily the rain came down pitilessly, the regiment could not leave the ground until nearly midnight, and it was Sunday morning at 1-30 ere they arrived in Bolton. It is pleasant to know that the annual encampments and inspections at Rhyl and Lytham have been attended by far pleasanter surroundings. As Captain Perry relates, a house was ultimately rented in Crook Street, as headquarters; two new companies, Nos. 5 and 6, drilled under the New Market; in 1861 headquarters were removed to 25, Bridge Street; in May, 1861, arrangements were made for a rifle range on Kersley Moss, but relinquished in September of the same year owing to the number of buildings in the neighbourhood; a grand bazaar was held in the Temperance Hall in April, 1862, for the benefit of the corps, and realised £2640; in January, 1863, Nos. 7 and 8 Companies were added, and shortly afterwards the premises in Fletcher Street, then vacated as the Bolton Workhouse, were purchased for £1800, "and the necessary alterations were considered and put in hand" to fit them as headquarters, storerooms, and drill ground. From 2nd September, 1880, the regiment was officially recognised as the 14th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, and from 1st February, 1883, it has been known as the 2nd Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. The "majority" of the corps was celebrated 15th November, 1880, dinners being arranged for by the officers and non-commissioned

officers. The total strength 31st December, 1891, was 915. Colonel J. Cross Ormrod has succeeded Colonel A. Bailey as active head of the corps, and Captain G. W. Dowell is the successor of Major E. L. Frances, who retired in 1891.

On the 8th May, 1860, a well attended meeting was held in the Great Lever School, when it was decided that if a sufficient number of names of able-bodied men could be secured, a sub-division of Artillery Volunteers be formed. The desired number of men offering themselves a sub-division was formed—a representative Committee acting meanwhile—and Mr. C. F. Ainsworth and Mr. R. Winder were appointed first and second lieutenants respectively. Ultimately, uniforms of dark blue, with red facings, white belts and bearskin busbies, were adopted; carbines, two guns, and other *matériel*, were secured from Government, and additional candidates joining, the Bolton and Great Lever Artillery Corps became known as a section of the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers. More batteries were formed, the men increased in numbers and efficiency, annual encampments were begun, and for many years the corps has been a favourite in the town. The brigade now constitutes the 9th Lancashire Artillery Volunteers, and is 420 strong. The headquarters in Silverwell Street are a decided advance on the "cribb'd, cabin'd, and confin'd" premises in Artillery Street.

Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. Winder have remained truly loyal to the corps throughout. The former is on the staff as Hon. Colonel, and the latter as Lieut.-Colonel (hon. col). Major F. Ainsworth is another old officer in the local Artillery. Captain W. Pickup, R.A., discharges the duties of Adjutant.

CHAPTER XL.

THE POOR LAW: EARLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The Poor Law and its Operations in Bolton—Great Bolton Overseers in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries—Assessments and Collection of Rates—Town's Meetings—Novel Statement of Income and Expenditure—First Overseers in Little Bolton—The Poor Rate a Century Ago—The "Old Hall" Poorhouse in 1785*—First Election of Guardians—Stormy Scenes—Distress—Dawn of Local Government in Bolton—Pillory and Dungeon—Town's Committee and Overseers—Conflict and Deadlock—Special Constables—First Improvement Act—Appointment of Trustees—Enclosure of Bolton Moor: List of Purchasers—Opposition by Ratepayers: Stormy Meetings—Boroughreeves and Constables—"Watch and Ward" in Bolton—Local Authorities at War: Extraordinary Stubbornness—Lighting Arrangements: Bolton Gas Company—Waterworks Company.*

HAT the poor have always been in Bolton—as they ever will be—is abundantly evident from preceding chapters in this work; that there have been sympathetic minds and hearts in the town is clear from the charitable bequests adverted to, and from the voluntary help spoken of in association with times of trouble and distress. There was need for this voluntary assistance in days of old. The Poor

Laws as now worked were not thought of; no one imagined that the day would come when it would be compulsory to relieve cases, however undeserving, both by food and shelter. Provision was made for affording relief three hundred and fifty years ago by private agencies, mainly, but it was not until 1601 that a law was enacted calling upon householders to contribute to the relief of the poor, and giving power for the election of men of property to serve as "Overseers"—to "see over," among other duties, the affairs of each township as regards the collection and appropriation of rates, and in a measure to govern such elections as take place annually on the nomination of contributors to the rates—a provision that remains unaltered, as is the duty of preparing voters' and jury lists.

The operation of the Poor Law was long in coming into full force in Bolton. The first record of its being adopted was in the year 1673, from which date we have a complete list of Overseers appointed for Great Bolton.* The local Overseers appointed more than two centuries back include: 1672, William Smallshaw, William Smedley; 1673, William Rothwell, Thomas Longworth; 1674, Abraham Hulme, James Harrison, James Holden; 1675, James Holden, James Mullineaux; 1676, Christopher Marsden, Thomas Nicholson; 1677, Edward Sedgwick, Thomas Pemberton; 1678, James Edge, John Fields; 1679, Nathaniel Nicholson, Christopher Ainsworth; 1680 to 1690, no record. In 1691, the Overseers were, Thomas Horrocks and Robert Roscoe; 1692, Edward Dewhurst, Samuel Birch; 1693, John Hewitt, Charles Holland; 1694, Holland Bradley, John Seddon; 1695, William Dewhurst, John Haulgh; 1696, Nathaniel Nicholson, Hugh Entwistle; 1697, John Andrews, Edward Dewhurst; 1698, John Green, John Woodrop; 1699, Edward Potter, William Leyland; 1700, Ralph Rothwell, John Cross. Among those who discharged the office of Overseer in the Eighteenth Century were men bearing names still sounded in Bolton, such as John Bradley, John Briggs, James Hardman, John Bolton, Richard Rigby, Edward Kenyon, Henry Wright, L. Longworth, John Crompton, Edward Markland, Thomas Bradshaw, John Seddon, John Edge, Mr. Pimlott, James Crook, John Heywood, John Holden, John Rothwell, Mr. Darbishire

*The references to the early records of the operations of the Poor Law in Bolton are founded mainly on extracts made from official documents by Mr. J. K. Waite, and published in the *Bolton Weekly Chronicle*.

Lever, Mr. Lever, and Thomas Naylor, while in 1720 a Mrs. Boardman served as Overseer with Mr. John Andrews, and Mrs. Runnigan gave Mr. John Edge her company in 1725. At the beginning of the Nineteenth Century the Overseers were: John Woods, Joshua Woods, Thomas Lord, Thomas Heelis; 1802, J. Harding, T. Hardcastle, Thomas Heelis; 1803, T. Rycroft, Igdaliah Seddon, Thomas Heelis; 1804, T. Crompton, J. Oswald, Thomas Heelis; 1805, T. Howell, S. Houghton, Thomas Heelis. The latter was Overseer until the year 1813. In this year a step was taken that had been contemplated some time previously, namely, the appointment of a gentleman to do the clerical work of the Overseers, with the rank of "Assistant Overseer." On 5th May, subsequent to the printing and issue of a number of handbills, inviting candidates, a town's meeting was held and adjourned to the 7th, at the Workhouse, for the purpose named, when it was agreed that Mr. Josiah Taylor be elected at a salary of £120, he to give security in the sum of £1000, "for the due performance of his duty in such office as Overseer." In 1823, Mr. J. Hamer was elected Assistant-Overseer of Great Bolton; from 1838 to 1869, Mr. J. S. Scowcroft discharged the obligations of the office; in the latter year Mr. Thomas Platt was appointed his successor.

The oldest existing record with regard to the assessment and collecting of the poor rate in Great Bolton, is, says Mr. Waite, an assessment of the township for the year 1770*, and the detailed income and expenditure of the rates has been preserved from the year 1777. The first quarter's receipts and disbursements are:—

	£	s.	d.
By Tax Book	155	17	6
By sundry receipts	50	13	7
Out of pocket	5	10	5
	£212	1	6

	£	s.	d.
Necessity in house	74	4	2½
Do. out do.	44	0	6
Weekly pay to poor	26	0	9
Do. bastards	6	8	5
Uncollected taxes	3	3	2
Out of pocket previous quarter...	58	4	5½
	£212	1	6

Seen and allowed by us, Nathaniel Howarth, Robert Howell, and John Walkden.

Among subsequent items of expenditure we find, on 18th November, 1777, one load of meal, 24s. 6d., and a pack of "flower," £2 13s. 6d.; 30th January, 1778, Abraham Bowker, 36lbs of beef at 3d., 9s.; 4th February, "Norris Child, a shift, 2

* Preserved in Public Library.

brats, and handkerchief," 3s.; 23rd, spent at Swan with Overseers of Heap, Turton, and Hulton, 1s. 6d.; 2nd March, Paid bellman for warning Ellen Bromley, out of town, 6d.; 26th March, Paid Mr. Fowler "for shays, carrying Walmsley Family to Darran" (Darwen), 17s. 6d. In the year 1779, a shilling was spent on ale at a child's interment; two loads of potatoes cost 13s. 6d.; veal was purchased at 2½d. per lb.; two weeks' milk bill amounted to 14s.; 4s. 6d. was paid for ale and a shroud at the burial of a pauper; 3s. for "laying out Marsden's wife;" 7d. for "Walkden and Grime, for taking Alice Pounsett to Workhouse, when overgotten them."

The township of Little Bolton had its separate body of Overseers, also—its distinct poor-law operations. In 1745 the occupants of office were Messrs. Robert Knowles and Wm. Cundline, and in 1746 two of the holders of a name still honoured among us were discharging the functions of Overseer, namely, Mr. John Moscrop, sen., and Mr. John Moscrop, jun. As a fact, the Moscrops were long identified with the important office of Overseer. Mr. John Moscrop, junior no longer, was Overseer in 1780; in 1782 Mr. Thomas Moscrop succeeded him, and in the years 1804-5-8-11, and in 1813 he was again engaged superintending the relief of the poor, the collection of the poor rates, and directing in the general control of the township inclusive of the highways, while in 1804 and for 34 years onwards, Mr. John Moscrop officiated as Assistant Overseer, Mr. Benjamin Brown succeeding him in 1838, the appointment of Mr. Thomas Dawson dating from 1840. The Overseers for Little Bolton in 1748 were Robt. Knowles, Wm. Oldham; 1749-50, Thos. Smedley and Adam Nuttall; 1751, Thos. Smedley, Wm. Oldham; in 1767, Adam Grundy, Jas. Smith; 1768-9, Jas. Smith, Wm. Lupton; 1770, John Isherwood, Wm. Lupton; 1771, Wm. Broughton, Rd. Kershaw; 1772, Jno. Haslam, Rd. Smith; 1773, Jas. Haddock, Rd. Smith. At the end of the Century we find the names of Wm. Heelis, Wm. Cunliffe, Thos. Lord, Robt. Barlow, Wm. Longworth, Geo. Grundy, Danl. Stones, Wm. Cocker, Jas. Slater, Thos. Naylor, Jno. Kay, Jno. Smith, Wm. Rothwell, Thos. Ainsworth, Adam Grundy, John Wealfield; and in the beginning of the present century, Robt. Barlow, Wm. Nightingale, Wm. Briercliffe, Jas. Greenroyd, Jos. Wallwork, Robert Darbishire, John Winward, Jno. Cockshott, Geo. Blair, Arthur Sharples, Robert Knott, Samuel Crompton, and Peter Crook.

In the middle of the last Century there were neither paviors nor road makers by trade in the employ of the township —repairs had to be done by the inhabitants in turn, and one of the duties of the Overseer was to superintend or "oversee" the work. Thus it is recorded in the minutes of the Overseers' Proceedings and Town's Meetings for 1764, that Mr. John Haslam, then Overseer, is to "call every inhabitant in their course to repair the said highways, and not to take 'no' money from them." That is they were to be exempt for the time from the payment of the rate. And every one was to be "allowed a gill of ale, not exceeding the same." In 1794, the poor rate stood at eighteenpence in the £; the houses and buildings then assessed in Little Bolton numbered 651, and in the Higher End of the township (Sharples) 40. The total valuation of the township was £3250, and the poor rate realised £108 3s. 4d. What tremendous strides Little Bolton has made when we take into account that the rateable value is now about £160,000. The Churchwardens who signed the rate in 1794 were Wm. Longworth, Robt. Knowles, Jno. Horridge, Jno. Smith, and Ralph Fletcher, and the Magistrates who allowed it were John Entwisle and Robert Dean.

The first poorhouse in Bolton was built in the year 1785. The erection was originally known as the Old Hall, and stood in the street which took its name from it—Old Hall Street. The Crompton family sold it to the Overseers for the sum of £300, the money being paid to Mr. Abraham Crompton, 1st April, 1767, with £13 15s. interest, in the presence of John Whitehead, James Fowler, John Brown, George Silwood, William Martin, Richard Aspindell, William Young, Thomas Howell, Thomas Heelis, and John Woods. In 1812, the in-door paupers were removed to far larger and more substantial premises in Fletcher Street, and for seven years the vacated poorhouse was utilised as a guard or wardrooom by Col. Ralph Fletcher and a novel association to be mentioned shortly. At the end of this period the premises were licensed, and opened as the Three Arrows Inn, and so remained until demolition was necessary for the building of the Town Hall. In 1839, the Goose Cote Farm, Turton—a building bequeathed by Humphrey Chetham, and the rents from which were to go for the benefit of the poor of Turton—was utilised for the accommodation of pauper children,

but was, with the Workhouse in Fletcher Street, Great Bolton, vacated finally in 1861, the Workhouse at Fishpool, in the township of Farnworth, being formally opened 26th September, 1861, the corner stone being laid 8th September, 1858, by Mr. James Winder, Chairman of the Board of Guardians for the Bolton Union. The Workhouse at Fishpool is in the Italian style of architecture, and was erected at a cost of £25,000, for the accommodation of 1045 inmates. The site covers 25 acres of ground, and was purchased at £120 per acre. The frontage is to the east, and overlooks the London and North-Western Railway Company's Bolton and Manchester Branch Railway, opened for traffic 1st April, 1868. The townships in the Bolton Union number twenty-six, and comprise Great Bolton, Little Bolton, Bradshaw, Breightmet, Edgworth, Entwisle, Farnworth, Halliwell, Harwood, Heaton, Horwich, Little Hulton, Middle Hulton, Over Hulton, Kersley, Darcy Lever, Great Lever, Little Lever, Longworth, Lostock, Quarlton, Rumworth, Sharples, Tonge-with-Haulgh, Turton, and Westhoughton. According to the last census return (1891) there were 226,803 inhabitants of the Union. The area is 46,413 statute acres, and the rateable value, September, 1891, was £866,477. The Poor Law Offices are in Mawdsley Street, and corner stone was laid 17th May, 1865. Here also the business of the Rural Sanitary Authority, which has powers for streets, lighting, and sanitary purposes, has the control of thirteen townships, namely, Bradshaw, Breightmet, Edgworth, Entwisle, Harwood, Heaton, Middle Hulton, Over Hulton, Darcy Lever, Great Lever, Longworth, Lostock, Quarlton, and parts of Halliwell, Rumworth, Sharples, and Tonge-with-Haulgh. The area is 25,073 statute acres, the rateable value at the end of 1891 was £162,000, and the population is about 32,000.

The Poor Law Amendment Bill having been passed, the Bolton Poor Law Union was constituted in February, 1837. There was a great amount of dissatisfaction with the new order. It affected the magistracy and overseers, taking from them dignity and power, at the same time vesting Boards of Guardians with authority to deal with the relief of the poor and to erect workhouses where none had been built. Undoubtedly much of the opposition came from interested sources, for, while new avenues of expenditure were created, many abuses were

remedied—there were stricter inquiries, less means of pauperising, more responsibility upon relatives of the poor, and a consequent saving of the public funds. In Bolton the opposition was strong, as in other parts of the country. For instance, a public meeting was held on the 19th January, 1837, in that centre of varieties the Little Bolton Town Hall, that the leypayers, or ratepayers, might take the proposals in connection with the Poor Law into consideration—proposals that were based upon the recommendation of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Myerscough was to the fore, and entered upon a denunciation of the Act, repudiating the suggestions of the Commissioners, whose "puppets" it was proposed the people in Bolton should be. Another speaker ventured the opinion that the Government only wanted the initials of voters to see who were their slaves, and a third gentleman waxed indignant in relating the experiences of a family who had been separated in another town where the Act had been put into force. To a resolution that Bolton should not be brought under the operation of the Poor Law there was only one dissentient, and a petition was forwarded from Bolton for the repeal of the Act. The meeting and the petition were rendered nugatory by instructions coming down for the formation of a Board of Guardians and of a Poor Law Union for Bolton and district. To the township of Great Bolton was given the privilege at the outset of electing five Guardians, to Little Bolton three, Westhoughton two, and to the remaining townships one each.

The first Board of Guardians was elected as follows:—Great Bolton, William Naisby, John Dean, John Hamilton, Joshua Crook; Little Bolton, James Arrowsmith, Robert Walsh, A. Haigh; Sharples, Charles Heaton; Darcy Lever, R. Barlow; Kersley, John Lever; Westhoughton, John Dickenson and John Mather; Quarlton, John Bridge; Horwich, Thomas Ridgway; Lostock, R. Shaw; Little Lever, Thomas Fletcher; Edgworth, Giles Ashworth; Longworth, Thos. Simm; Tonge-with-Haulgh, Thomas Holmes; Rumworth, R. Smith; Breightmet, John Heaton; Bradshaw, J. Scowcroft; Harwood. James Haslam; Over Hulton, G. Canby; Turton, John Ashworth; Farnworth, W. Barton; Little Hulton, J. Webster; Entwisle, Thomas Entwisle; Heaton, W. Haslam; Halliwell, S. Pennington. On the 9th February (1837), the first meeting of the Board was

held in the Little Bolton Town Hall, and as magistrates were *ex-officio* members, Mr. Joseph Ridgway was appointed chairman. Immediately the Board had set the machinery of the new Poor Law going, it was dissolved and there was another election, though no material alteration took place in its constitution. For the Chairmanship, Mr. John Fletcher, magistrate, was elected for the year, and Mr. William Ford Hulton, also a justice of the peace, was called to the Vice-Chair. Mr. John Woodhouse was appointed clerk to the Board, and Mr. J. K. Watkins superintendent registrar of births and deaths. Mr. Simpson Cooper has long and ably discharged the functions of both offices, and he is Clerk to the Rural Sanitary Authority. The Guardians had widespread distress to meet in those early days. Weaving in Bolton was at a low ebb—at one time there were 1100 weavers unemployed. At a meeting in Nelson Square one man stated that in several houses the children had not a morsel of food to satisfy the cravings of hunger. Women, with infants at their breasts, had in several instances declared to him that they had not tasted bread since the day before. In other houses it was stated there was no furniture, and clothing could hardly be obtained. The meeting adopted a petition to Parliament, in which it was said the sufferings of the labouring classes had become so aggravated that human nature could no longer endure it. All the manufacturing districts were in this condition and none of them more so than Bolton, where the population looked upon their awful situation and the approach of winter with much alarm. Rents could not be paid, and it was feared hundreds would die of hunger.

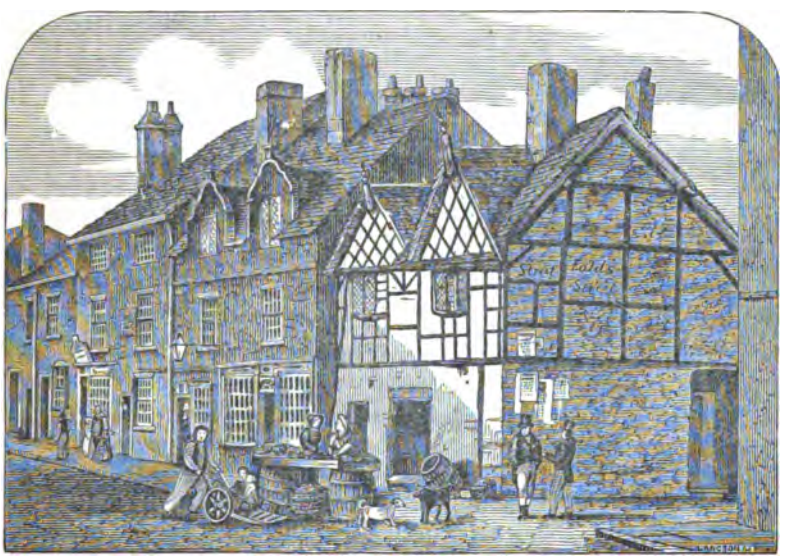
The representatives on the Board of Guardians for the townships named as constituting the Rural Sanitary Authority's district form that body.

The dawn of Local Government in Bolton dates from the close of the Eighteenth Century. The Lords of the Manor, the Town's Committees, and the Overseers of the Poor had done something by way of preserving order and decency in public highways, in regulating the market, and had had, with the county justices, some influence in watching and warding the town. The pillory stood in the Market Place; the dungeon in Windy Bank or Bank Street, behind the Hare and Hounds Inn of to-day, was meant to be a deterrent, with the pillory, to evil

doers. This dungeon, by the by, had become so dilapidated in the year 1778, that notice was proclaimed during divine service in the Parish Church of a meeting to be held on the 10th September for the purpose of deciding to call upon the local Constables to undertake its renovation. A meeting was held accordingly, when the intentions of the promoters of the gathering were brought forward and decided upon, part of the scheme being that the front wall of the dungeon be taken down and set lineable with the battlement of the bridge over the Croal, so as to leave the dungeon 7ft. 8in. wide "within the walks." The meetings of the Town's Committee and of the Overseers were held at some inn, and after the opening of the Workhouse within the walls of that establishment, as belonging to the public. Here was debated in solemn conclave the condition of the roads and town's affairs, one body of representatives and then another adopting resolutions, and launching what were then regarded as schemes big with importance, but which were, figuratively speaking, more the building of mole hills than otherwise. The functions of Overseers and Town's Committee became mixed frequently, and there would be a deadlock. To the people's representatives, however, everything was of moment, the colour of the parish beadle's coat and pantaloons, the gait and raiment of the deputy-constable, the length of the bellman's coat, the dress of the poorhouse children, the size of the town water cart, the size and shape of the special constables' truncheons. In June, 1809, at any rate, the awe-inspiring committee had not a profound regard for the special constables, for Mr. N. Birch was instructed to wait upon them to learn whether they really intended to continue in office, and to demand the truncheons from those who declined. It was further ordered that he be directed not to warn the special constables to meet again, while the Overseers on their part gave orders for the summary dismissal of the Workhouse Governor about the same time, and forthwith appointed a successor in the person of Mr. John Cartwright.

At this period the area we know as Little Bolton, now completely built upon and densely populated, was a district largely of pasture fields and meadow lands. The whole north side of the Croal, then a limpid brook, contained not more than five hundred dwellings. The majority of these bordered upon

the river in clusters or folds,—highways were only three or four in number, leading on to Tonge Moor; there was a roadway to Blackburn and an outlet to Chorley and Preston, by the Old Chorley Road and over the Horwich Moors; for the rest the broad stretches of field and moorland were intersected by foot-paths and lanes bordered by hedgerows. Even inhabitated Great Bolton was extremely limited. Bolton Moor was a moor indeed, save for the dwellings in the vicinity of the Pike and behind Moor Lane. Beyond Blackhorse Street and away south and south-west was little save open ground. There was a highway



BRADSHAWGATE IN 1790.

through Deane and another across the Pike to Leigh and Warrington—do we not recollect reading how the besiegers of Bolton poured down upon the town from this quarter during the Civil War?—but nearly all else was unoccupied. Still due south from Great Moor Street and east from Bradshawgate and Churchgate moorland and cultivated patches constituted the rule and buildings the exception. In the town proper, Deansgate, Bradshawgate, Churchgate, and Windy Bank (with Fold Street) were the main thoroughfares, and they, narrow, dirty, and unlighted by

gas, and backed by crooked alleys, such as Pepper Alley, in the vicinity of the thoroughfare now termed Crown Street, Barrack Lane (behind Market Street), Duke's Alley, Ridgway Gates, and Howell Croft, surrounded by orchards, drying grounds, and garden patches. In addition to the Court Baron—the Court Leet sat with all due solemnity at the Swan Inn, and adjudged fines and imprisonment upon offenders.

With the opening of the last decade of the Eighteenth Century, however, the leading inhabitants of Bolton resolved that the old order should be changed; that it should give place to new. No longer should the government of Bolton be vested in the hands of the very few, but of a respectable number of elected;* no longer should thoroughfares be private and semi-private, but public streets in the true sense of the word; no longer must the inhabitants depend for the supply of that necessary to life—pure water—upon the wells of the district, whether drawn at the perennial springs or purchased at a figure per canfull from the hawkers with the barrel; no longer should Bolton be confined in its limits, but spaces should be sold and appropriated under Act of Parliament, and building plots let or sold. Events were forcing to these conclusions, the principal of which was the development of trade. In a word, Samuel Crompton had, wittingly or unwittingly, allowed the full secret of his unspeakably great and important invention of the Spinning Mule to leak out, cotton works were springing up, weaving was extending its borders, strangers were coming into the town to find employment; the population had grown in 1791 to 9000 in Great Bolton, and Little Bolton could boast of 2000 souls.

The wealthier and the more intelligent of the inhabitants of Bolton and the neighbourhood sought the aid of Parliament

* In more than one respect it was advisable in the interests of landowners that the Bolton Moor should be changed in character, and they do not appear to have objected greatly to a metamorphosis. One meeting at least was held, and that in June, 1786, after the announcement concerning it, as in such cases, in the Bolton Parish Church, when it was resolved that the lords of the manors and also landowners and inhabitants present at the meeting had been for many years, and were still, injured in their property rights and privileges by the unlawful taking and carrying away of bricks on Bolton Moor into other townships and places, and by getting and carrying away of clods (square pieces of grass-grown earth, or sods) from the Moor, and by trespass. A resolution was then and there passed that "all such ways, means, and methods in the law as the counsel or attorney for the said township shall advise or think expedient, shall be had and taken at the expense of the said township, according to the poor rates there, against all such persons as shall hereafter get, dig, make, or carry away, or sell or dispose of any bricks or brick earth or clay from off the said Moor to any other township, parts, or places, than Great Bolton." A like mode of dealing remained also for the taking away of sods, and a Committee was appointed to carry out these resolutions.

therefore, and an Act passed in 1792 was the outcome of their labours—an Act that may be looked upon as the very foundation of local government in Bolton. The Act was comprehensive. It was for enclosing, dividing, and allotting " a certain common or waste ground called Bolton Moor, and other the commons and waste grounds within the township of Great Bolton, in the County Palatine of Lancaster, and for widening, paving, lighting, watching, cleansing, and regulating the streets, lanes, passages, and places within the towns of Great Bolton and Little Bolton, and for supplying the said towns with water, and for providing fire engines and firemen, and for removing and preventing nuisances, incroachments, and annoyances, and for licensing and regulating hackney coaches and chairs within the said Towns." There were 270 acres of the Bolton Moor and other commons and waste grounds to be dealt with. Edward, Lord Derby, Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart., and John Blackburne, James Lever, and Samuel Crooke, Esqrs., were recognised as joint Lords of the Manor of Great Bolton, and entitled to the soil of the said commons and waste grounds, and to the royalties within the manor; William, Lord Bishop of Chester, was, as rector of the parish, admitted to have rights in the glebe lands of the manor; and the town and inhabitants were to benefit through the perpetual annual chief and other rents to be established, the money in aid to go towards poor rates, in addition to sanitary, streets, and other improvements; Matthew Fletcher, Esq., of Clifton, Ralph Fletcher, Esq., of Haulgh; and David Claughton, Esq., of Great Sankey, being the Commissioners first appointed for setting out, allotting, enclosing, and disposing of the commons and grounds according to the Act.

THE FIRST TRUSTEES ELECTED WERE, FOR GREAT BOLTON:

Robert Andrews, Peter Ainsworth, Richard Aspindell, William Bamber, Joseph Best, Edward Bolling, Robert Bolton, John Bond, William Carlile, Thomas Crompton, James Darbishire, Rev. James Folds, Matthew Fletcher, Adam Fletcher, of Bolton; Matthew Fletcher, of Bolton; Thomas Fogg, James Fowler, Rev. Jeremiah Gilpin, Thomas Heelis, Pitt Hewitt, Edward Horridge, Samuel Haughton, Thomas Howell, John Leigh, William Maire, Joseph MacKeand, James Morris, John Pilkington, Thomas Plumbe, Peter Rasbotham, Samuel Rath-

bone, John Ridgway, Peter Rothwell, Thomas Rycroft, Jeffery Smith, Thomas Smithson, Robert Taylor, James Wareing, Joseph Walton, John Woods, and Benjamin Wraith.

FIRST TRUSTEES FOR LITTLE BOLTON:

Thomas Ainsworth, Richard Ainsworth, Robert Barlow, William Cockshot, James Cundliffe, Rev. Robert Dean, James Diggle, James Fletcher, John Gartside, Thomas Grundy, George Grundy, William Hardman, Arthur Haslam, John Haydock, William Heelis, John Horridge, Robert Knowles, Thomas Longworth, William Longworth, James Longworth, John Mangnall, Thomas Naylor, Benjamin Rawson, Nathaniel Robinson, John Smith, Daniel Stones, John Taylor, Lawrence Taylor, and Edward Threlfall.

The Commissioners and Trustees were granted power to supply vacancies, after due notice had been given upon the doors of the Parish Church and "the Chapel of Little Bolton" (All Saints' Church), and no person was to be qualified to serve as Trustee unless he was a resident in the town and possessed of, if for Great Bolton, £1000, and for Little Bolton £500. The rights of the lords of the manor were to be preserved in the process of allotting, selling, and letting. Appeals were allowed at General Quarter Sessions. The Trustees had to meet periodically, or, if otherwise, not until notices had been posted upon the doors of the two churches, and the bellman had been notified; no order was to be valid unless made at a public meeting; books were to be kept, a treasurer, clerk, and collector appointed; power was accorded to put up lamps, posts, and irons, to contract for paving, lighting, and cleansing, with authority to summon defaulters; chimneys were not to be fired, faggots were not to be laid within one hundred yards of any bakehouse; authorisation was given, as intimated, to provide an adequate water supply, to be free for the use of the inhabitants; coaches and chairs were to be numbered, street signs made safe, sewers properly constructed; ashpits were to be attended to between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. only; names of streets attached to one or more buildings in each thoroughfare; rates were to be levied, and even smoke nuisances were provided against. No house was to be rated if valued at under £3 10s. per annum.

The Bolton Moor was divided by the Trustees as provided for in the Act, and in 1793 the first sales were effected as under :—

Names of Lessees.	A.	R.	P.		Annual Payment. £	s.	d.
Mr. Aldcroft	1	0	6		17	18	0
Mr. Bourn	6	3	9½		109	19	6
Baker & Co.	15	1	3		155	9	3
Mr. Bamber	2	3	7		16	0	0
Mr. Carlile	28	3	35		169	18	7½
Mr. A. Crompton	4	2	5		38	3	1½
Mr. T. Crompton	1	0	3½		4	16	5½
Canal Co.	5	3	31				
Mr. Jas. Fletcher	0	0	31		13	10	0
Mr. Thos. Fogg	16	3	6		132	18	10
Mr. G. Grime	3	3	18½		48	7	1
Mr. G. Grundy	0	0	3		0	3	9½
Mr. Heywood	13	0	8½		97	7	1
	1	1	30				
Mr. Hardman	12	2	37½		71	14	6½
Mr. Hewitt	11	3	39½		144	12	0
Mr. Houghton	3	3	32½		109	18	5
Mr. Lomax	4	2	10½		38	1	6½
Mr. Jno. Makinson	4	0	1½		146	18	11
Mr. Js. Morte	0	0	24½		1	10	10½
Widow Motler	0	0	4		0	5	0½
Mr. Pilkington	22	5	10½		352	1	7½
Mr. Phethean	1	1	36		36	18	9
Mr. J. Lomax	3	1	31		?		
Mr. Rawson	6	11	20		102	19	11½
Mr. P. Rothwell	14	3	14½		80	18	7
Rothwell & Sharples	10	2	12½		30	8	5
Mr. Ridgway	7	0	22		?		
Mr. Rudge	0	1	18		3	13	1
Mr. Slater	14	3	3		118	3	11½
Jeffry Smith	7	1	15½		59	6	0
Francis Wrigley	0	0	9½		2	18	0
Mr. Vallett	7	0	4½		43	13	2
Mr. Woods	11	3	30		108	9	8
D. Williams	3	1	5		75	4	0
Mr. Watson	0	0	28½		5	7	1
					£2595	13	0

The ratepayers of Bolton are benefited in the rates to this day from these sales. It will be of interest to add, also, that the principal thoroughfares through and bounding the Bolton Moor took their names from the lords of the manor, thus: Crook Street from Samuel Crooke, Esq., Lever Street from James Lever, Esq., Bridgeman Street from Sir Henry Bridgeman, Derby Street from the Earl Derby, and Blackburn Street from John Blackburne, Esq.

The official notice relative to the sale of Bolton Moor reads as under :—

GREAT BOLTON, MAY 14TH, 1794.

SALE OF BOLTON MOOR.

Notice is hereby given, that the Commissioners appointed in and by an Act passed in the thirty-second year of his present Majesty (amongst other Purposes) for the inclosing of Bolton Moor, and for Selling or Leasing certain parts thereof, do, in Pursuance of the said Act, intend to meet at the House of Mr. John Moss, the Swan Inn, in Bolton aforesaid, on Friday, the twenty-seventh day of June next, at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon, in order to Sell or Lease, for a Term of Five Thousand Years, to commence from the Date of such Lease, the several Lots remaining unsold upon the said Moor, for the best Clear Annual Chief Rent that can be got for the same, but subject to the immediate Payment of Ten Pounds by the Acre, and so in Proportion for any greater or less quantity. No one Allotment to exceed four Statute Acres, and the Leases to contain such Covenants, Provisoes, and Agreements, as will at the Time and Place appointed for Selling or Leasing the same be set forth. For further Particulars apply to Mr. Maire, Attorney, in Warrington, or at the Office of Mr. Whiteley, Attorney, in Bolton, where a Plan of the Allotments is left for Public Inspection.

MATTHEW FLETCHER,
RALPH FLETCHER,
DAVID CLAUGHTON,
} Commissioners.

Bolton was not enclosed, however, nor was the government of the town allowed to be changed in character, without considerable show of opposition. There were men who could not tolerate the idea of the wheel of progress turning any more rapidly than had obtained from time immemorial; men who had a horrible dread of innovation; men who loved darkness better than light; men who were selfish, who had interests at stake they were afraid would be deeply affected; men who feared the increase in rates certain to ensue upon enlargements and improvements. On the 10th March, 1796, a highly excited meeting took place in the Grammar School, "for reading the draft Bill for amending a certain Act of Parliament, made and passed in the thirty-second year of his present Majesty, for inclosing, dividing, and allotting Bolton Moor, and other the common and waste grounds in the township of Great Bolton, in the county of Lancaster, and for other purposes." The Committee for preparing the draft bill, says an old print, since copied into the *Bolton Journal*, produced the same, when a chairman was called for, and Mr. Richard Ainsworth proposed, and apparently had a majority of show of hands of the persons then present. The persons applying for the bill pretended other-

wise, and alleged that the Rev. Thos. Bancroft had a right to the chair, as being Chairman of the Committee for preparing the bill, and immediately called out for Mr. Bancroft in the chair, when there was a second show of hands, but apparently not as numerous as that for Mr. Ainsworth, though many voters consisted of persons whose right to vote at that meeting the parties against the bill disputed, being neither landowners nor ley-payers in the town. Upon this much altercation took place, as to whether landowners and ley-payers only, or the inhabitants at large, had a right to vote. The parties against the bill demanded a poll of those people whom they conceived had a right to vote, which did not meet the approbation of the friends of the bill. The parties against the bill, in order that the business might proceed, then proposed the Rev. Robert Dean, one of the magistrates for the county, and one of the Committee preparing the bill (a disinterested person), to take the chair, and he was approved by a large majority. But the friends of the bill called out for Mr. Bancroft, upon which Mr. Dean left the meeting. It was then agreed the bill be read, but not discussed, until a chairman was appointed. After the bill had been read, Mr. Ainsworth was again proposed as chairman, and approved, whereupon the friends of the bill again proposed Mr. Bancroft, for whom there was another show of hands, but not a majority, "from which manner of proceeding it appeared that neither gentleman took the chair, to the general satisfaction of the meeting. Upon this a fresh altercation took place, both as to the appointment of a chairman, and as to who had the right to vote," and it was not until after a great deal more unpleasantness, and the trustees, lessees, and other friends of the bill had withdrawn in disgust, that Mr. Richard Ainsworth was elected chairman. Thereupon a resolution was passed condemning certain clauses as objectionable, any application for reducing the rents of lessees being highly distasteful and unprecedented, such reductions going against the funds of the town. A petition was to be drawn up also, strongly objecting to the bill, and the county members were requested to vote against it.

On the whole, the promoters of new bills came out of the strife victorious. The trustees appointed by Act of Parliament continued to sit, town improvements grew apace, and by degrees objections and excitement were overcome.

THE BOROUGHREEVES AND CHIEF CONSTABLES,

or chief officials of the town, as appointed at the Court Leet of the Manor, were :—

Year.	*Boroughreeve.*	*Constables.*
1801	James Carlile.	
1802	John Pilkington.	
1803	Thos. Rycroft.	John Brandwood, John Green.
1804	Thos. Fogg.	Hilton Lever, John Gardiner.
1805	William Wright.	Thos. Hardcastle, James Horrocks.
1806	James Fletcher.	Wm. Bradshaw, Robt. Bolton.
1807	Pitt Hewitt.	Thos. Thwaites, Wm. Bowker.
1808	Wm. Carlile	Jno. Mawdsley, Jno. Salt.
1809	Thomas Howell.	Jno. Gardiner, Thomas Jones.
1810	Matthew C. Dawes.	Andrew Kelly, Josiah Lee.
1811	William Balshaw.	John Johnson, William Nevill.
1812	Robt. Bolton.	Wm. Crompton, John Charlton.
1813	Henry Casson.	Christopher Fell, Jno. Smith.
1814	John Woods.	Richard Fell, John Smith.
1815	Joseph Best.	John Jones, John Gordon.
1816	Samuel Houghton.	James Ormrod, Jonathan Hitchin.
1817	Daniel Makinson.	Isaac Dobson, Jas. Crompton.
1818	Wm. Bowker.	John Stanton, Thos. Blundell.
1819	Isaac Dobson.	Thos. Wingfield, Brian Coulthard.
1820	Wm. Crompton.	Jno. Booth, Wm. Bamber.
1821	John Jones.	Jas. Scowcroft, Wm. Bolling.
1822	John Mawdsley.	Geo. Pigott, Henry Dobson.
1823	Thos. Thwaites.	Jno. Barrow, Jno. Bamber.
1824	Jno. Gardiner.	Geo. Brabin, John Bolling.
1825	Thomas Bolling.	Chas. Nuttall, Edwd. Brimelow.
1826	Andrew Kelly.	Peter Ormrod, James Kay.
1827	James Scowcroft.	Oliver Ormrod, Michael Tudor.
1828	Jas. Crompton.	Edwd. Bolling, John Heaton.
1829	John Bolling.	Jno. Croft, Jno. Barrow.
1830	James Kay.	Richard Walker, Samuel Swan.
1831	Peter Ormrod.	Richard Badger, Johnson Lomax.
1832	John Barrow.	John Johnson, Thos. Broadbelt.
1833	Jno. Hargreaves.	Jas. Ormrod, Richard Daly.
1834	Richd. Daly.	Thos. Bridson, Robt. Vickers.
1835	Johnson Lomax.	Jno. Blinkhorn, Jno. Albinson.
1836	Richard Badger.	Saml. Cartwright, John Stones.
1837	John Johnson.	Wm. Holcroft, Thos. Yates.
1838	John Allanson.	Benjamin Walker, R. H. Heaton.
1839	Thos. R. Bridson.	James Hargreaves, Thos. Baron.

At one period there were those in the town who would not trust to officialdom for protection of life and property—they would form a Vigilance Association of their own. From the year 1812 to 1820, Bolton had, therefore, its "Watch and Ward," a purely voluntary institution—"established by Colonel Ralph Fletcher for the purpose of maintaining and securing a vigilant supervision of the town, and was composed of the principal inhabitants, whose duty it was to assemble in rotation and perambulate the town each night. There was one injunction the Colonel very implicitly laid upon the Watches, and that

was that if they found any young couples out courting they were not to interfere with or disturb them!" The "Watch and Ward" rules* set forth that two conductors were to be appointed for every night's Watch, each to conduct ten men; one half to remain in the watch room during the time the others are on duty, unless in case of emergency. The conductors were to enter the names in the book and the occurrences of the night; the Watch were to remain on duty from ten o'clock at night till six o'clock in the morning; in addition, eight ward men were to be on duty each day from six a.m. to one p.m., and four from one o'clock to ten o'clock at night. Mr. Josiah Taylor, assistant overseer, had charge of the minute book each Monday morning for presentation to the magistrates, that every defaulter might be fined "agreeable to the Act." The duties of the members were not heavy; they had to report on, and deal with, drunkenness mainly, for which the all-night sittings at more than one public-house are responsible. There was a protracted interval during the period named in which the Watch and Ward men desisted from the foolish practice of leaving bed and home voluntarily, and the 23rd January, 1820, was the last night on which they ventured into the open. Under January 1st was the entry, "Happy New Year to every good wisher to his King and Country. Found every place more quiet than we expected." January 7th, "We have endeavoured to attend to our duty, particularly in the search of public-houses, where we heard quarrelsome conduct. We were told we had no business in their houses; if that be the case, we consider the main purpose of the Watch and Ward is rendered fruitless. We have names to bring forward if called upon."

Although, as we have just remarked, the condition of Bolton grew apace respecting sanitary and street affairs and general government, and notwithstanding that the promoters of Improvement Bills came out of the applications victorious, the strife was as bitter as it was protracted. The control of the two townships of Great Bolton, as distinct the one from the other, was maintained. There were boroughreeves and constables in the two divisions who would not yield their position and importance; the Overseers insisted upon what they considered

* A Paper has been contributed by Mr. J. K. Waite to the local Press on "Watch and Ward," from which these items are taken.

their rights and would not have them affected by the appointment of Trustees. The Town's Committees were impervious to all attempts to oust them, while the Magistrates and Churchwardens were equally resolved not to resign one jot of their privileges. The conflict was at once comical and serious therefore—comical because of each body meeting and passing resolutions upon the same and kindred subjects, and serious inasmuch as the progress of the town was more or less stultified. More, not only did the elected decline to retreat—the nominators and electors would not listen to argument. The lords of the manors of Great Bolton and Little Bolton *would* favour the Court Leet and its powers of old; the parishioners *would* nominate gentlemen eligible for the office of Overseer. Parliament insisted upon the Trustees appointed under the first Improvement Act carrying out what they were commissioned to do. And the matter went on merrily and otherwise, the whole a precursor of the battle fought with persistence and endurance in connection with the incorporation of Bolton in after years.

The first company formed in Bolton for lighting the town with gas, incorporated by Act of Parliament in the session of 1820, termed (I. George IV.) "An Act for Lighting with Gas the Towns of Great and Little Bolton, in the County Palatine of Lancaster," received the royal assent 8th July in the same year. The Company was formed 14th March, 1818, and the first instalment towards lighting the towns with gas was 1st May, 1819. The preamble sets forth that whereas the towns mentioned were large and manufacturing places, and it would be of great benefit to the inhabitants and to the public at large if the streets and other public passages were better lighted, and whereas "inflammable air, coke, oil, tar, pitch, asphaltum, ammoniacal liquor, and essential oil might be procured from coal, and inflammable air might also be obtained from other substances," and the said air being conveyed by means of pipes, might be safely and beneficially used for lighting the several streets, squares, markets, and other places within the towns, and coke might be beneficially employed in works and private houses with safety and great advantage, it was enacted that "The Bolton Gas Light and Coke Company" be formed. The usual powers of buying and selling were given to the Company, the stock to be raised was not to exceed £15,000; sums of

money to the extent of £7000 might be borrowed; £15,000 was to be subscribed before works were begun. Stock was to be divided into shares of £10 each, and no one person was to have more than a hundred shares. Proprietors were to vote according to the number of shares they held, and power to vote by proxy was given under the Act, the first place of meeting being the Commercial Inn. The further powers granted were, largely those for taking up streetage and laying pipes—powers the new company were quick to put into operation—from the head-quarters in Gas Street, off Moor Lane.

The distribution of gas was found a very profitable business to the Company, as well as a convenience and benefit to the town at large, and matters being well in hand with regard to the "inflammable air," many of the leading inhabitants turned their attention more seriously than before to an improved water supply. It was not to be done by the town authorities, but through the instrumentality of a private body. The first Waterworks Company met 4th March, 1818, and on 17th June, 1824, the Royal Assent was accorded to an Act (5, George IV.) deemed necessary "for supplying with water the towns of Great Bolton and Little Bolton, and the township of Sharples, in the parish of Bolton-le-Moors, in the County Palatine of Lancaster." Sharples was mentioned in the Act because of the Dady Meadow Springs—200 feet above the level of the town, which gave out a large and pure supply of the essential to the local water carriers and consumers—being in Belmont Road, in the township of Sharples. The capital of the Great and Little Bolton Waterworks Company was not to exceed £25,000, in shares of £50 each.

As with gas, so with water, business men, householders, and township trustees were only too glad to avail themselves of it, applications for supply and extension coming in constantly.

In the year 1843, the Company secured additional powers for bringing water into the borough. Little Bolton was well served, but more water was needed for Great Bolton. A grant was obtained from the balance of the Manufacturing Districts Relief Fund—started for the relief of the distressed during the awful years 1841 and 1842—and the construction of the Bolton Moor Reservoir was commenced. And water paid so satisfactorily that yet another scheme was fostered—the formation of

the reservoir off the Chorley New Road, Heaton, and which is still intact. The works at Belmont and Bolton Moor completed, and those at Heaton in progress, the Company was in a position to supply consumers at the rate of a million gallons per day.

CHAPTER XLI.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.—I.

Municipal Corporations Act, 1835—*Reformers in Consultation—Proposals for a Charter—Opposition, Disputes, and Recriminations—Petitions—Reasons for and Against Incorporation—Before the Privy Council—Charter of Incorporation Granted—Conservatives Stand Aloof from the Elections—First Returns—Town Council Meeting—Mayor and Aldermen—The Town Clerk—Validity of the Charter—The Old Governing Body will not Yield—Disappearance of Opposition—Tories Militant at the Polls—Expenditure and Discontent—Famine—Plug Drawing Riots of* 1842—*Dr. Bowring and the Distress—Rates Uncollected—Excitement in the Council Chamber—The Town Clerk Ousted.*

HE Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, was, in a great degree, corollary to its author's Reform Act of 1832. The basis of Parliamentary Representation having been immensely enlarged by the latter Act, the Reform party asked what more natural than that municipal institutions should fall into the keeping of the whole body of the electorate? Not, however, until about two years after the Municipal Corporations Bill had received the Royal assent, did anyone in

Bolton bestir himself towards having the provisions applied to Bolton. The late Mr. Henry Ashworth has told us how the movement for a Charter under the Act originated. He says, that acting upon a suggestion from outside he undertook to make inquiries in Bolton, and for this object attended at a private tea party at the residence of Mr. John Dean, of Silverwell House. "There were present at this party," Mr. Ashworth goes on, "Messrs. Robert Heywood, Charles James Darbishire, Thomas Thomasson, James Winder, my brother Edmund, and myself, with some others, whose names I do not remember. The existing government of the borough by Court Leet, under the authority of the Lord of the Manor, was discussed, and declared to be inappropriate and unworthy of the population, wealth, and commercial character of the place. It was considered by certain Manchester gentlemen that the case of Bolton was one more urgently requiring reform than Manchester, and I was advised to put in motion the best means for obtaining a decision of the inhabitants upon the matter. At the time it did not appear that application had been made on behalf of any town or place for a charter of incorporation under the Act, and I therefore wrote to my friend, Joseph Parkes, of London, for advice. The result was that the little clique who met at John Dean's over a cup of tea at once advertised a public meeting, and prepared resolutions to be submitted thereat."

The advertisement referred to appeared in the local prints of January 13th, 1838, and reads as follows:—

INCORPORATION OF BOLTON.

In compliance with a requisition presented to us, signed by upwards of 300 electors of the borough of Bolton, we, the undersigned, hereby convene a public meeting of the inhabitants, being ratepayers of the said borough, to be held at the Town Hall, Little Bolton, on Wednesday, 17th January, instant, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of applying for a Charter of Incorporation of the aforesaid borough.

THOMAS TONG,
PAUL JONES,
JAMES BAYLEY, } Overseers of Great Bolton.

ED. ASHWORTH,
JOHN ENTWISTLE,
JOHN HASLAM, } Overseers of Little Bolton.

January 11th, 1838.

Very few persons were present at the hour fixed for the commencement of the proceedings, but the room was afterwards thronged. Mr. Thomas Tong was called to the chair, and he having briefly explained matters, Mr. Henry Ashworth opened the ball

by moving "That the governing power in all communities ought to be vested in the public at large and not in self-elected bodies." A very long time since, he said, when there was scarcely any population or wealth in the neighbourhood, the existing system of electing boroughreeves and constables—which had been perpetuated from time immemorial—was introduced. The borough had since then become very large, very populous, and very rich, and he thought no unprejudiced and unbiassed person would attempt to deny that the people of so important a borough as Bolton should have the power of electing their own municipal officers. The new Corporations Act recognised the principle that all householders, paying rates, should elect those who were to have the management of their affairs. The operative Conservatives were constantly boasting of their strength and influence; and if they really had this strength and influence, the probability was that they would return Conservative mayors, aldermen, and constables, and they would find plenty of persons qualified to fill these important offices from among those of whom they spoke so loudly at Conservative dinners. There was also a Reform Association in the borough. Its days had often been numbered, but it still lived. Suppose this association had the ascendancy, it was natural to suppose they would endeavour to have Reformers as mayors, aldermen, and councillors. Still they would study the fitness more than the party qualifications in their selection.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas Cullen and Mr. Myerscough rose to agree in the main with what Mr. Ashworth had said. The resolution was one of vast importance to the welfare of the community. At the same time the speaker held that the principle contained in the Act had been in operation for a lengthened period in Little Bolton—it was got by special Act in 1830—and had worked with satisfaction to the ratepayer. He gave his cordial approbation to the resolution, but suggested the feeling of the Little Bolton ratepayers should be ascertained separately. In the first place, the township was saddled with a heavy debt. Would the Corporation take that debt? In the next place, Great Bolton had property on Bolton Moor. Would the Corporation let Little Bolton participate in it?

No one answered these questions, but Mr. Ashworth appeased Mr. Myerscough's curiosity to some extent when he

admitted that Parliament had provided that any township not wishing to be included in the Charter might be excluded. Thereupon the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. C. J. Darbishire proposed the next resolution: "That it is expedient the local government and the expenditure of public funds of so large and important a community as that of Bolton should be vested in a body popularly chosen and subject to popular control and responsibility." He objected to Little Bolton remaining as it was. The government was not in the hands of the people. The Boroughreeve was the chief magistrate and returning officer at elections. But how were the municipal officers appointed? They had hole and corner meetings, because the lord of the manor delegated to his agent the power to summon the Court Leet, and the fitness of the persons appointed might be judged by anyone by looking at the persons elected. He could not remember one Dissenter having been appointed for Great Bolton and only one for Little Bolton. Then although the ratepayers might object to the passing of the Boroughreeve's accounts, he could go to the magistrates and have them agreed to. Mr. Thomas Thomasson seconded Mr. Darbishire's resolution, and it was carried with one dissentient.

Another resolution was moved by Mr. Robert Heywood, namely: "That in order to the establishment of a responsible local government in Bolton, a petition be presented to her Majesty in Council for a Charter of Incorporation of the borough of Bolton under the Act 5 and 6 William IV., cap. 76, entitled 'An Act to provide for the regulation of Municipal Corporations in England and Wales.'" The resolution was seconded by Mr. Joseph Bell, and, on the motion of Mr. P. R. Arrowsmith, seconded by Mr. Joseph Skelton, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee, with full powers to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect, and to collect subscriptions to defray the necessary expenses, namely, Messrs. T. Cullen, H. Ashworth, P. R. Arrowsmith, John Brown, Robert Heywood, John Dean, Thomas Thomasson, Edmund Ashworth, C. J. Darbishire, John Gordon, John Hamilton, Joseph Sowden, James Knowles, William Naisby, Joseph Ainsworth, C. Ainsworth, Richard Nightingale, James Bailey, W. Haworth, Jos. Skelton, Thomas Wallwork, James Morris, Wm. Simpson, John Cross, Richard Kynaston, John Slater, Joseph Bell.

In seconding a vote of thanks to Mr. Tong for presiding at this meeting, Mr. Naisby said he had always contended for popular and responsible government; and although he had not expected much from the Reform Bill he had expected it would destroy "the rottenest hole of corruption in England — the Court Leet of Great Bolton," whereat there was great applause.

The writer of these pages is strongly tempted to go into the mode of election and composition of the Court Leets, and to recite the powers the members could exercise, but really the contradictions that were made upon the platforms and which appeared in print during the fierce struggle for and against the incorporation of Bolton were so many that one hesitates to launch upon the venture. The respective parties shall, therefore, give their own versions, and the reader shall draw his own conclusions.

To proceed, then, the advocates of a Charter of Incorporation were not permitted to go on unchallenged. Evidence was soon forthcoming that a strong and influential body of ratepayers were decidedly opposed to the scheme. They were satisfied with the *status quo*. A hundred of them signed a memorial to the Overseers for Little Bolton desiring them to call a public meeting to dissent from the proposed incorporation of the township with Great Bolton, and on the evening of Thursday, February 8th, a gathering took place. Mr. John Entwistle presided. Mr. Myerscough read from the Little Bolton Act of 1830 to prove that the town already possessed a Corporation. Mr. Myerscough concluded his harangue by moving "That as by virtue of the Act passed in the 11th year of the reign of his late Majesty George IV., the trustees of Little Bolton, who are therein styled the body Corporate, and by that name have a common seal and possess the powers and privileges which the Municipal Corporations for England and Wales Act confer, consistent with the interests of the inhabitants of Little Bolton, a Charter for its incorporation with the town of Great Bolton would be injurious and unsatisfactory, and would create an expense hereafter to be entailed upon the inhabitants which is unnecessary."

The Boroughreeve, Mr. J. A. Smith, seconded the resolution, and immediately Mr. C. J. Darbishire brought forward an amendment. "He was received with such clapping of hands," says one account, "and such shouts of applause that it was

clearly demonstrated the meeting had been packed by the minions of the 'National Education' and 'March of Intellect' men, whilst subsequent speakers, who opposed the incorporation of the borough, were hooted and hissed at the close of almost every word. So much so, that we find that if we were to insert every such symptom of 'intelligence and dignity' from the 'people,' the mere mention would occupy nearly as much space as the text itself." Mr. Darbishire complained of the manner in which the meeting had been got up, accused Mr. Myerscough of not understanding the Little Bolton Act, and said the constables' accounts would have to be paid out of the poors' rates so long as the Court Leet existed. Mr. Darbishire moved his amendment, "That this meeting approves of the petition for the proposed incorporation of the borough of Bolton." Mr. Henry Ashworth seconded, and, amid tremendous uproar, the amendment was declared carried.

The leaders on each side having unburdened themselves upon the platform devoted themselves in downright earnest to drawing up petitions, obtaining signatures, and having them presented to the Privy Council. In a petition got up against incorporation it was stated that the Charter was not called for by any public necessity. Indeed, the incorporation of the borough would be greatly injurious to the real interests of its inhabitants. The population of Great Bolton within the borough was estimated at not less than 30,000 persons, of whom 6368 were householders, the rateable value of property being set down at £80,000. No advantage whatever could be seen in the contemplated change; on the other hand, the petitioners firmly believed an additional taxation, and that a heavy one, would be imposed. The Privy Council, and through them the Queen, were appealed to, on these and other grounds, not to grant the Charter of incorporation, and the petitioners would ever pray.

The following "Reasons for Incorporation" are taken from others, as advertised:—"The authorities for the government of the town of Bolton are the boroughreeve and two constables, who are appointed at the annual Court Leet by a jury convened by the agents of the lords of the manor. The boroughreeve and constables select and appoint deputy constables and other officers for the service of the town. The inhabitants who pay them have frequently attempted to influence their choice,

but without success. The inhabitants have no power to lay the police rate for the payment of the police force, which payment is made out of the poor rate—a system which the inhabitants dislike, and which mode of payment majorities at vestry meetings have refused to sanction on the plea that they are not the town's servants, not being appointed by the public, nor subject to their control. These objections, however just and reasonable, have been disregarded by the magistrates, who have enforced the payment out of the rates. The borough has now become large and populous, containing upwards of 50,000 inhabitants, and therefore requires more efficient municipal government. The magisterial courts, which are held by the county magistrates, most of them non-resident, are open only twice a week. The community now require daily sittings of the justices. The township of Little Bolton, which forms about one-third of the Parliamentary borough, is under similar Municipal government by officers chosen by the Court Leet of Thomas Tipping, lord of the manor; but the manorial rights of the two townships being possessed by different persons, the authorities do not act in concert, which aggravates the inefficiency of the police regulations of the borough, and is pregnant with constant and various evils." It was further alleged that the boroughreeves and constables were elected by political bias.

The petition in favour of incorporation was signed by 4037 males and 120 females. The rateable property represented stood at £54,351 14s. 6d., while the Opposition petition, it was said, was signed by not more than 3422 males and females, with property rated at £55,661 7s.

Notice what a statement from Great Bolton declared in contradistinction to the above: The inhabitants had had, so far, a distinct voice in the eligibility of the boroughreeves and constables, and the jury appointing them was summoned from the inhabitants resident in the township. So far from the officials being elected according to politics, they were chosen from the most intelligent and respectable class of people, and had invariably discharged their duties with impartiality and effect. The deputy constable and two of the other policemen then in office were appointed, and had their salaries fixed, by a public vestry meeting of the inhabitants, six years before, and had been in office since. The other policemen had been elected by

the boroughreeve and constables, but their salaries had been allowed by the inhabitants in public vestry meeting. The contemplated Charter would not improve or render more efficient anything respecting the current municipal government of Bolton. As to the magistracy, there were ten justices who acted, three of whom were resident in Bolton. All were accessible at their own houses. Then as to Little Bolton. It had a boroughreeve and two constables, appointed annually at the Court Leet of the lord of the manor, and had invariably acted in concert with the authorities of Great Bolton, in order to increase the efficiency of the police regulations. The township was governed by a Police Act, obtained at great expense in 1830. The trustees were appointed by the ratepayers, and were a body corporate, and had authority to lay rates and to appoint and pay policemen and watchmen, and other servants. The trustees had also powers of doing all other acts for the municipal government of the borough in as ample a manner as could be conferred under the proposed Charter. A Town Hall had been lately erected at Little Bolton, at a cost of £3,000, and provided a proper place for the security of prisoners, and a residence for the deputy-constable. The expense of the police establishment in Little Bolton for the last year had not exceeded one-fifth part of Great Bolton, but as Little Bolton had not an annual value equal to one-half that of Great Bolton, the immediate effect of the Charter of Incorporation including the two townships would be to double the burthens and expenditure of Little Bolton. The latter township, being already provided with a Police Act, Town Hall, and buildings suitable for its circumstances, and having thereby incurred a debt of £4,000, chargeable in the police rates, it would be most unjust, contended the Opposition, by a Charter of Incorporation to burthen it with one-third of the expenses of any township in which, under such Charter, buildings would probably be erected on a large scale. The petitioners further stated that the most eligible and competent citizens had been elected boroughreeves and constables of Great Bolton, and had not been unpopular. No one had been chosen to any office who had not at heart the good of the town. The number of signatories, who were ratepayers, to the petition for incorporation was not more than 3100, whose property was rated at £31,000, whilst the petitioners against the Charter numbered 3422, with property rated at £55,661, showing

a majority against incorporation of over 300 persons, and rateable property £24,000 odd in excess.

Whoever was wrong and whoever was right, from whichever side the volume of truth emanated, the leaders were not afraid to emphasise the petitions by braving a stage coach journey of 200 miles and interviewing the "powers that be." Mr. H. Ashworth shall tell how the deputations met the Privy Council on the same 5th March, 1838: "Mr. Heywood and I, with Mr. Winder, our solicitor, obtained an audience of the Privy Council, pleaded our cause, answered all inquiries, and left our petition, which we had got very numerously signed by the ratepayers. On retiring from the Council Chamber we found at the door waiting for admission the agent of the Earl of Bradford, the lord of the manor of Great Bolton; and the agent of Mr. Tipping, the lord of the manor of Little Bolton, accompanied by about a dozen Bolton Tories, supported by Mr. William Bolling, one of the borough members, who introduced these gentlemen (our opponents) with a counter-petition to the Privy Council. Mr. Heywood expressed himself dismayed at a local representation so formidable and influential, but I assured him we had no need to fear for our cause; that we had a Democratic case whilst they had a baronial one, and that I did not dread the result."

The storm was long in breaking. Come it did, however.

On Saturday afternoon, the 13th October (1838), a formidable looking envelope was presented to "Our well-beloved cousin and councillor James Winder, Esquire;" and "our well-beloved cousin and councillor" having broken the seal thereof found the enclosure to be the Charter of Incorporation of the borough of Bolton.

As may be easily inferred, the news of the arrival of the official instrument spread like wildfire. To say that the town was agitated by it is to say but little—it was excited as it had not been for years. Boroughreeves, constables, deputy-constables, bailiff and beadle, ale tasters, and market lookers trembled for the future. Othello's occupation would be gone, the burning and shining lights of the district utterly and completely snuffed out. And yet it could not be? At all events, the Charter was there, to the unspeakable delight of the promoters and the deep mortification of the opponents. To render things more uncom-

fortable, too, for the Opposition, the instrument set forth that the decision of the Privy Council had been come to on the 5th March preceding, the very day on which their deputation, as well as that from the "Whig-Radical" camp, had interviewed right honourable gentlemen. Why all this waiting then? Why the neglect to communicate the resolve of the Privy Council sooner? Echo answers "Why?"

While, figuratively speaking, the Reformers burnt blue lights and started rockets into the air, the Opposition poured out their wrath in scorching bursts of fiery indignation.

In their glee and gratification, the Reformers prepared to contest the borough, which was divided into six wards—Exchange, Bradford, Derby, Church, East, and West—for seats in the new Council. On their side, the Conservatives left the elections severely alone. They professed disbelief in the legality of the whole proceedings, and would have no part nor lot in them. The trustees of the two townships were equally determined, and a new chapter in the contest was begun. Polling booths were opened, and about one half the electors entered to record their votes. The candidates as elected (all Reformers) were:

EXCHANGE WARD.	Votes.
John Hamilton, Hotel Street, Tea Dealer	489
Joseph Skelton, Bowker's Row, Gentleman	491
Richard Dunderdale, Deansgate, Tea Dealer	491
Davies Rawsthorne, Oxford Street, Tobacconist	488
Thos. Wallwork, Summerfield, Spirit Merchant	486
Henry Macoun, Hotel Street, Tailor	487
BRADFORD WARD.	
Chas. J. Darbishire, The Folds, Manufacturer	359
William Naisby, Hotel Street, Linen Draper	359
Jos. Ainsworth, Newport Terrace, Cotton Spinner	359
Wm. Wartoft, Derby Street, Manufacturer	359
John Rothwell, Deansgate, Druggist	359
Wm. Leigh, Deansgate, Chair Maker	359
DERBY WARD.	
Thos. Tong, Crook Street, Yarn Agent	458
Joshua Crook, Bradford Place, Cotton Spinner	458
Richd. Kynaston, Blackburn Street, Gentleman	458
Oliver Nicholson, Blackburn Street, Shuttle Maker	458
Jas. Winterbottom, Blackburn Street, Gentleman	458
Jno. Markland, Blackburn Street, Pawnbroker	458
CHURCH WARD.	
Robert Heywood, Newport Terrace, Esquire	277
Jas. Bayley, Newport Place, Manufacturer	273
Jno. Dean, Bradshawgate, Gentleman	275
Jas. Barry, Chorley New Road, Flour Dealer	273
Jno. Brown, Churchgate, Boot and Shoe Maker	274
Jas. Rothwell, Breightmet Hall, Cotton Spinner	272

EAST WARD.	Votes.
Andrew Knowles, Eagley Bank, Coal Merchant	565
Jas. Arrowsmith, Green Street, Cotton Spinner	568
Thos. Thomasson, High Bank, Cotton Spinner	570
John Haslam, Mill Hill, Manufacturer	563
John Lomax, Water Street, Grocer	567
John Vickers, Tipping Place, Manufacturer	561
WEST WARD.	
Thomas Lee, St. George's Place, Gentleman	297
Robert Walsh, Park Hill, Gentleman	297
John Yates, Park Hill, Pawnbroker	297
Richd. Nightingale, St. George's Place, Manufacturer	290
John Slater, Back-o'th'-Bank, Bleacher	298
Charles Ainsworth, Tonge, Cotton Spinner	296

On the 8th December, the initial meeting of the first Town Council of Bolton was held in the Little Bolton Town Hall, and the following were elected Aldermen of the borough: Messrs. Ellis Wood, brazier; Thomas Evans, flour dealer; John Cross, manufacturer; Thomas Mulliner, accountant; Thomas Gregson, cotton spinner; John Chapman, flour dealer; Charles Nuttall, pawnbroker; John Mangnall, paper maker; Joseph Lum, cotton spinner; Edmund Ashworth, gentleman; Thomas Cullen, cotton spinner; and A. Haigh, cotton spinner. Mr. Mulliner declined to stand, and Mr. W. Moss was elected in his place. Mr. C. J. Darbishire was, on the motion of Mr. C. Ainsworth, seconded by Mr. James Rothwell, elected Mayor of the borough, and Mr. James Winder first Town Clerk.

Time went on, and the validity of the Charter remained a sore question with the Conservatives in the borough. There were showers of arguments for and against, and hard recriminatory language galore. The new Corporation appointed committees, made laws, obtained grant of a Court of Quarter Sessions, elected Mr. John Gordon clerk of the peace, Mr. John Taylor borough coroner, caused to be enrolled a new police force of forty men, and appointed a police superintendent. Still, the old governing body would not yield; they would not find cash for objects they were willing to be responsible for themselves. The Chartist Riot, referred to in another chapter, broke out in Bolton in 1839, and the whole force of police was found inadequte for the emergency. Mr. Darbishire, the mayor, was harshly spoken of in Parliament. Constables had not then been appointed by the Corporation—they could not be in consequence of the Opposition, and a rare argument was placed in the keep-

ing of the Reformers. The Bolton Police Bill (passed a little later on) it was that gave power to the Corporation to appoint constables. The 1st November, 1839, came round, and yet the Conservatives were obdurate. They would not acknowledge the legality of the Charter, and allowed a Reform or Liberal Town Council, as it must be termed, to elect as Mayors in succession, Mr. Robert Heywood, Mr. Jas. Arrowsmith, and Mr. Thomas Cullen. Corporate expenses grew, while trade languished—the distress was heavy indeed.

To cut a long story short, the opponents of incorporation were eventually defeated all along the line, the old order had, perforce, to give place to new—the Charter was held to be valid. The Boroughs Incorporation Bill, passed to settle such disputes as that in Bolton, received the Royal assent 12th August, 1842. Then it was that the Tories of Bolton bestirred themselves in Corporate matters. They had fought stoutly and doggedly. If they had not commanded success, they had, at least, they felt sure, deserved it. Defeat was theirs in this contest, but it would not be in another. They would try conclusions at the polling booths. On the 1st November, therefore, when there were thirteen seats in the Council Chamber to strive for (one being through an extraordinary vacancy in Derby Ward), candidates of the party went to the poll, and they had a fine revenge in wresting from the Liberals nine of the thirteen seats. A marked increase of expenditure in local administration was a grand argument for them, especially when the distress was so fearfully bad that over 1200 houses in Bolton were empty in that year, and 10,000 persons were in receipt of parochial relief. The wards that elected Conservatives were: Exchange, John Bolling and James Scowcroft; Derby, T. R. Bridson, Thomas Chantler, and John Hardman; Church, Thos. Myerscough, Wm. Ward; East, Stephen Blair and Robert Knowles.

Time brought further revenge to the local Conservatives. They continued to gain at elections until, at the end of the year 1844—little more than two years after the validity of the Charter of Incorporation had been established—they had a majority in the Council Chamber, and maintained it to November, 1853. The Liberals then gained the supremacy. It was not until the year 1869 that the Conservatives recovered that power in the Council Chamber they still hold.

As already stated the expenses of administration greatly increased the rates, while to add to the difficulties of the situation scores of the men actively opposed to the Charter did all in their power to withhold payment of them. Not listening to the importunities of the rate collector they were summoned, and even then would not disburse. Nor would they discharge the obligation in some cases until warrants of distress had been made out against them. Further, the poverty of the working-classes was something pitiable. To use a homely expression, money could not be kicked out of stones. In Great Bolton alone, nearly 1100 houses were empty at the beginning of the first municipal year. The weavers were mostly located in that township, and their industry it was that suffered above all others. The distress continued throughout the year 1841, and in 1842 it was accentuated. There were sixty cotton mills in Bolton giving employment to 9000 people, and more than one-half were working "short time" or closed altogether. Soup kitchens were established; and all the liquid that could be made by the charitably disposed was quickly taken up. The Society for the Protection of the Poor had been established, and in the course of a single month had some 2000 applicants before them at the Little Bolton Town Hall. The Union Workhouse was crowded, and at one time there were 3000 cases on the books of the Board of Guardians, the greater proportion coming from Great Bolton, though Little Bolton applicants numbered 600; there were over 400 applicants from the Lever district, 350 from Hulton, and 307 from Westhoughton —country places suffering with the town. Nearly £400 was paid for relief in one week. The Bolton weavers met and passed a resolution that as the distress in the borough was unparalleled, "something must be wrong in the laws which govern the nation, and as no class has suffered so much as the hand-loom weavers, they are willing to render every assistance in the struggle for an alteration in the laws, by which bread would be cheapened." It was resolved, too, that class legislation was the main source from which the maladies afflicting the nation arose, and to petition Parliament for the complete abolition of all restrictive enactments affecting the trade and commerce of the country.

Disappointment in the mind, vacuity in the stomach, famine in the home, women and children crying for bread and clothing, what wonder that scores of the afflicted in Bolton

joined in the plug-drawing riots of 1842? At any rate they did so. Alarmed at the intelligence coming from near and afar as to the desperate bands of workmen marching from town to town, certain of the middle-class in Bolton formed themselves into a defence association, and signals were arranged for from the Parish Church tower and other places of observation, that Bolton might be warned of the coming of these gaunt, famishing men. They came, bodies of them. Their career was not to be stopped, and the number being swollen in Bolton, works were visited and the plugs were drawn from the boilers, and what few manufactories were running were stopped. Day after day the thoroughfares were traversed by crowds of people, indignation meetings were held, and special constables and local yeomanry paraded and dispersed the multitudes. All this was in the month of August.

Meetings had then been held for the better relief of the distress in the town. In the House of Commons Dr. Bowring had stated that families in Bolton were so reduced that clothes were pawned at night to redeem bedding, and bedding was pawned in the morning to redeem the clothing. The Doctor stated, too, that there were 1400 empty houses in the town, and that two-thirds of the poor rate could not be collected. He knew of one deserving family who had gone without food for two days. A Commissioner was sent down to Bolton to make inquiries in consequence of what Dr. Bowring had said, and it is significant of what the Government thought of the condition of the people that £500 was despatched in their name for distribution. Col. Peronett Thompson, who had come to lecture at Bolton for the Anti-Corn Law Leaguers, wrote to a London newspaper that anything like the squalid misery, the slow, mouldering, putrefying death by which the weak and the feeble of the working classes were perishing in Bolton it never befel his eyes to behold, nor his imagination to conceive. The poor creatures sat down with Oriental submission, as if it was God, and not the landlord, that was laying His hand upon them. Pennyworths of mutton, and half-pennyworths of bread, cut off the loaf, were what the shopkeepers of Bolton dealt out to the inhabitants. Colonel Thompson had seen a woman come for a half-pennyworth of bread, which was to be the dinner of herself and two children. Another woman said she had not tasted flesh meat for many

months. Chopped dirt, the sweepings of a hen-house, mingled with sparrows' nests, to show that men had heard of straw, would be the best representatives of what some huddled upon in corners and called it resting.

On the 25th July, 1842, Mr. Henry Ashworth appeared for Bolton at an interview with Sir Robert Peel, the Premier, and Sir James Graham, the Home Secretary. Several towns were represented. Mr. Ashworth assured the Prime Minister—we are told, in "Recollections of Cobden and the League"—that in the Poor Law Union of Bolton, consisting of 90,000 persons, there were about 13,000 receiving parish relief, besides a great many others, whose immediate wants were provided for by voluntary charity. The ratepayers themselves showed signs of severe embarrassment: only £9000 had been collected towards a rate of £21,000, which had been laid a year before. Amongst the destitute there were a considerable number who were either skilled workmen in engineering and the mechanical arts, or in the chemistry of printing, dyeing, and bleaching calicoes. To such persons the want of food was not a mere physical suffering, but was even more harassing to the mind. They knew but little of the commercial difficulties whence their distress had sprung, but they were looking impatiently for the remedy, and trying to acquaint themselves with the resources for food and employment in other countries. Some of the choicest of our skilled workmen were already emigrating, and his mill manager, who had a large salary, had lately removed with his family to the United States, for he said he had concluded that the fate of this country was sealed, and he was desirous to have his family settled where they would have a more favourable chance of success in life.

Another statement as prepared by Mr. Ashworth—he informs us by the same medium—was to the effect that in January, 1842, the Poor Protection Society had 6995 applications for relief, whose earnings averaged less than 14½d. per head per week. In 950 families there were 1553 beds; 53 families had no beds at all. There were only 466 blankets found in the course of one visit, being at the rate of 10½ persons to one blanket. There was very little furniture, only two seats being found for every three persons. In 609 families there was no change of underclothing, and pawning had been resorted to in 511 families.

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Gradually, distress and excitement lessened. The worst was passed. Trade revived, brought in its train the blessings of peace and comparative contentment, if not prosperity; houses were again occupied, the rates were relieved and Bolton assumed its normal condition.

If, however, the Corporation could not make rapid progress in town improvements, they met regularly, and presented a strange conglomeration of votes of congratulation to the Queen on her coronation, her marriage, the birth of children, resolutions on distress in the town, the votes of Mr. Peter Ainsworth in Parliament, Anti-Corn Law Agitation, Conservative tactics, and the like, until disturbed by the inrush of political opponents to the Council Chamber in 1842. Then commenced the battle royal. Determined to make good lost time, the Conservatives criticised—the Reformers said they obstructed. A straw shows whence comes the wind, and very early it was plain what had to follow. Mr. T. R. Bridson, one of the newly-elected Conservative Councillors, proposed a vote of thanks to the Yeomanry and military for their services during the plug-drawing riots—a motion that was opposed by several of the Reformers and rejected by 14 votes to 12. "No sooner was the local force called out," sarcastically remarked Mr Thomasson, on another motion, "than with sword in hand and cigar in mouth they marched forward in battle array, and frightened all the women and children out of the streets. Who could tell the valiant deeds performed in Bradshawgate, Deansgate, and elsewhere? Who could not but compare their great deeds, when bringing seventy prisoners into the town, to an Alexander or a Scipio?" Whereat the majority laughed consumedly and the minority applauded. In the years 1843 and 1844 the Conservatives renewed the attack at the polls, and won. They had condemned the Reformers heartily for what they did in the Revision Court by way of revenge for the non-payment of borough rates —that is to say, being the means of striking a number of names from the register—and followed this up by seeing to the register themselves. At the close of the poll in November, 1844, they could count 23 heads in the Council Chamber, as compared with the Reformers 25. Six Aldermen were to retire on the 9th, and as the election to the vacancies would not take place until the appointment of Mayor had been made, the Conservatives resolved

to nominate a gentleman of their own political creed that their voting power might be increased. Accordingly, Mr. Stephen Blair, Councillor for East Ward, was nominated by them, and Mr. John Slater, Councillor for West Ward, by the Reformers. Alderman Mangnall, a Reformer, voted with the Conservatives, and thus the record was 24 for Blair and an equal number for Slater. What would the retiring Mayor (Alderman Gregson) do? For whom would he give his casting vote? All was painful doubt—the Reformers afraid that their fast waning power would be still further diminished, the Conservatives fearful that the victory they had dared to hope for would be snatched from their outstretched hands. Neither side was left long in uncertainty. Alderman Gregson voted with his party, and Alderman John Slater was elected Mayor. But the Conservatives were now sure of a triumph. The ex-Mayor was one of the six Aldermen whose term of office had expired, and he, with his five brethren must perforce leave the Council Chamber while the voting proceeded. The Conservatives were at the moment in a majority, seeing that their opponents were deprived of six votes. They carried the election of Aldermen in their favour, giving at the same time a Roland to Mr. Gregson for his Oliver.

The six Conservatives elected Aldermen were, Messrs. William Cannon, William Walker, Jas. Eckersley, George Piggot, George Sharples, and James Greenroyd. Mr. Gregson thus bade good-bye to the Council Chamber; Mr. John Slater, for whom he had given his casting vote, remained to preside over a Conservative majority. The Conservative victory was not yet complete, for attention was devoted at this very same meeting to Mr. James Winder, who had warmly espoused the cause of agitating for the Charter of Incorporation, and whom the Reformers had elected first Town Clerk of the borough. To use the mildest term, the Conservatives did not love Mr. Winder for his works' sake, and they ousted him from the Town Clerkship by 22 votes to 19. By 22 votes to 10 they elected Mr. James K. Watkins to succeed him at the reduced salary of £200 per annum. Mr. Winder had received £300. Had they so desired, the majority might have had a Mayor of their own political creed, for Mr. Slater offered to resign. He was prevailed upon to remain in office until the following November, when Mr. Stephen Blair was elected to the civic chair, the proportion of

members of the Town Council being 32 Conservatives and 16 Liberals. The Liberal minority dwindled to 14 in November, 1846, and to 6 in 1847, after which the Liberals began to regain lost ground.

On the 10th May, 1848, Mr. Watkins resigned his office of Town Clerk, and was succeeded by Mr. James Knowles, who relinquished his seat for East Ward for the purpose. Mr. Knowles officiated as Town Clerk for sixteen years. He resigned 25th July, 1864, his successor being the present legal adviser to the Corporation, Mr. R. G. Hinnell.

CHAPTER XLII.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.—(II.)

The Corporation and the Waterworks—Rival Schemes—Meeting of Ratepayers—Waterworks Company Dissolved—Developments of the Local Water Supply—A Far-reaching Improvement Bill—Market Hall Movement Started—Abolition of Great and Little Bolton Trusts—Building of the Market Hall—The Fish Market—Bolton Exchange Company—Free Libraries—Purchase of Cemeteries—Closing of Cellar Dwellings—Demolition of Old Property—Bradford Park—Bolton Park Inauguration—Recreation Grounds—Rioting in West Ward—Bolton Town Hall Scheme Launched: Completion of the Building: Opening by the Prince and Princess of Wales: Description of the Erection—Bolton Gas Company Dissolved—Borough Extension—Corporate Inquiry—Fever Hospital—Tramways—Mayors of the Borough.

EEMING it only right and proper that the ratepayers should be benefited by having a share of the proceeds of water supply, members of the Town Council began to agitate for Corporate powers. In 1843 a motion that an Act of Parliament for the purpose be obtained was carried. A Committee was appointed to investigate, and reported in favour of the Corporation acquiring the right of an

independent supply. An amendment was proposed from the Conservative benches that there was no necessity to construct entirely new works, and urging that the existing Company be approached with a view to selling their rights—an amendment defeated by 24 votes to 18. Mr. Blair, who had moved the amendment, brought forward a resolution at the next meeting that the moneys of the Corporation should not be spent upon any new scheme, and he was again defeated, the voting being 19 for, 26 against. The Council could not proceed, however, for a great outcry was raised in the town against the proposed expenditure. In the year 1845 a movement was set on foot for the establishment of an association which should compete with the old Company, the water to be obtained from the high grounds at Turton, Rumworth, Entwisle, Lostock, Heaton, and even Horwich, and to supply not Bolton only but other places. A provisional committee set to work to glean particulars. On their side the Conservatives, who had the majority in the Council Chamber, made preparations for applying to Parliament on the lines laid down by Mr. Blair in his amendments. A meeting of ratepayers was held in the autumn of 1846, to approve or otherwise of the scheme, at which an amendment was declared carried. The Council met again, however; the majority persisted, and defeated a motion proposed by Mr. Thomas Thomasson against the scheme for purchasing from the Waterworks Company. On the 5th June, 1847, the Bolton Improvement Bill—giving powers for the purchase of works as sought by the majority in the Council—was passed, and the works were duly transferred. The terms were on the basis of 25 years' purchase and an annual quit-rent of £4500. The amount of capital was set down at £112,500.

By subsequent Improvement Acts the Corporation have developed the Waterworks and means of distribution on all sides. The Wayoh, Turton, Entwisle, Heaton, and Rumworth reservoirs have been completed, and augmented supplies now come from the Belmont and Sharples districts. The first sod of the finest of the reservoirs, the Wayoh, at Turton, used for compensation purposes, was cut by the then Mayor, Mr. Richard Stockdale, 16th July, 1866, and the work—with that of making the Entwisle tunnel, 3050 yards long, which brings the water from the Entwisle lodge above—was completed in the month of

April, 1876. Formerly, the Waterworks offices were in Moor Lane. From 1848 business was transacted at the Corporation Offices in Acresfield; and it has been carried on in the Town Hall from the opening of the building, 5th June, 1873.

Of the Improvement Acts mentioned in the preceding paragraph, that of 1850 was about the most important. It was not obtained without trouble and opposition. It aimed not only at providing funds for Waterworks and Markets purposes, but at the absorption of the Great and Little Bolton Trusts in the Corporation, and skill and good management were essential to its success. Although the Corporation had been in existence for 12 years, the Trustees were not tired of official life. They had been elected for life to deal with streets and sanitary matters, and notwithstanding that they had come in contact with the Town Council they were resolved to fight for their official lives at every step. Or, rather, the Little Bolton Trustees seemed to have so resolved—it is only fair to the Great Bolton Trustees to say they were more than disposed to yield to the popularly elected body. Confident that a section of the ratepayers were with them, the Little Bolton Trustees called a public meeting for February 18th, 1850, in order that they might be supported in resisting the Corporation Improvement Bill, and although it was attended by Mr. T. L. Rushton, Mr. Thos. Thomasson, and others favourable to the measure, who spoke long and earnestly of the advantages that would accrue by its passage in Parliament, resolutions were adopted in opposition, and a petition was largely signed praying that the Trustees might continue to exist as such. It was all of no avail; the Corporation triumphed, and the duties of the Trustees were henceforth performed by the Town Council.

The Corporation Waterworks Scheme in harbour, owing mainly to the exertions of Mr. Thomas Lever Rushton, that gentleman started the agitation which led to the erection of the Bolton Market Hall, one of the finest in the kingdom.

It was in the first year of his Mayoralty (1848-9), that Mr. Rushton mooted the question in the Council Chamber. The appointment of a Sub-Committee ensued, and they recommended the site upon which the Market Hall stands—between Knowsley Street and Bridge Street, and which was covered by low, unhealthy rookeries and uneven thoroughfares. That there was

great need for a covered market no one disputed—the stalls ranged in the Market Square and the main thoroughfares, exposed as they were to wind and weather, and obstructing footpaths and pavements, were a sufficient testimony. There were a few resolute opponents, and Mr. Thomas Thomasson was the principal spokesman. He was afraid the erection of a Market would press hardly upon the poorer classes. Moreover, he, personally, experienced no inconvenience from the stalls in the streets. Neither was it the province of the Council to erect a Market Hall, taking it for granted one was required. He estimated the cost of such a building at £100,000. The site, too, was objectionable, and he had heard that local interests had been at work. To give force to his objections, Mr. Thomasson moved an amendment. It was lost by three votes to one, and the work preparatory to the erection of the Market Hall was forthwith commenced. Buildings were demolished; the foundations of the new structure were got. In 1850 a local Act for the erection of the building and the carrying out of sanitary and street improvements, for extinguishing the Little Bolton and Great Bolton Trusts, and giving their powers to the Corporation was passed. The purchase of old property, the formation of new streets and the Market premises entailed an outlay of £80,000 (the building alone costing £50,000), and long before the opening ceremony, 19th December, 1855, murmurs were heard, and Mr. Rushton had lost his seat in the Council Chamber (1st November, 1852).

But nothing was permitted to mar the proceedings at the formal opening of the Market Hall. There was a long and imposing procession, and the gentleman who spoke referred in laudatory terms to Mr. Rushton's services, and predicted the boon the market would be to the town and surrounding districts. Mr. Rushton was present by special invitation, and replied to the eulogies passed upon him as the originator and prime mover of the scheme.

A few words as to the building. Its principal entrance is from Knowsley Street, where it has a breadth of 215 feet. The front is of brick with stone dressings, except the façade, which is all of stone; six Corinthian columns of noble proportions supporting a broad and deep entablature. The flanks of the building are in Corporation Street, from which there are

three doorways, and to the Croal, an entrance being in the angle of the building from Knowsley Street. The rear is in Rushton Street, whence the interior is approached by a flight of steps. The total length of the magnificent building is 294 feet, and the area covered is 7000 square yards. There is a gallery round each side, 13 feet wide, and is devoted to lock-up shops, the space below being equally divided. The roof is an open one, and is made of iron and glass. Beneath the hall floor are arched vaults for the use of the tenants. Mr. T. G. Robinson was the architect engaged.

The corner-stone of a Fish Market—raised on land adjoining the Market Hall—was laid 9th August, 1864, and the building, which, with its site and purchase of property, cost £30,000, was opened to the public 22nd December, 1865. To provide a Wholesale Market Place the Corporation made purchases of buildings and land between Ashburner Street and Great Moor Street, and on 27th October, 1871, the Wholesale Market was used for the first time. The rents received from the retail market are larger in amount than formerly, and from the wholesale market also. Sums are annually devoted to the aid of rates.

Mr. Ewart had carried his Public Free Library and Museum Act in 1850, and in November, 1851, Mr. James Greenhalgh, solicitor, who was elected to the Bolton Town Council on the 1st, gave notice that in three months he would move that the provisions of the Act be applied to the borough. Accordingly, on the 11th February, 1852, he brought forward his resolution. The time was inopportune—though Mr. Greenhalgh could scarcely have known it would be when he gave notice of the motion—for in the second week of January a strike occurred in the Bolton iron trade, which lasted, like the one in 1887, six months, and occasioned serious loss to the town. Still, Bolton was without its public library, and Mr. Greenhalgh was determined the want should be supplied. There had been attempts to supply the need in part, but they had not been successful. The "Church and King Library" was very limited in scope, the "Liberty Library" was like the "Church and King," partizan in character, and was doomed to failure; nor did the "Bolton Library" endure long. Politics and sectarian bitterness, which dominated everything in those days, would not permit Boltonians

to join in one common object — even the Exchange News Room Company did not keep together a library. There were a few Sunday School libraries, at length, and the Mechanics' Institution, started in Back King Street in 1825, with headquarters—in the middle of the Century—in Oxford Street, could boast of one, but there was no general centre for reading purposes when the latter half of the Century opened.

From the first Mr. Greenhalgh had the Town Council with him. A poll for the ratification of the decision of the Council to found a Free Library was taken in the last days of March, and showed that only 55 ratepayers were against the movement, 662 voting for it. The Bolton Exchange Company had erected in 1828 the substantial two-storey building at the south-east corner of the Market Square, and in 1852 were in a position to let off the upper rooms to the Corporation for the purposes of a library. The rooms were adapted, shelves were erected and filled with books, and on the 12th October, 1853, the Bolton Free Library was inaugurated. There were lending and reference departments in the upper storey, and a subscription branch was opened. The Corporation, having come into possession of the entire building on the dissolution of the Exchange Company, the subscription department was transferred to the lower storey, which was opened 14th April, 1873 ; the nucleus of a museum was formed in the disused portion, but has given way since the opening of the Chadwick Museum—the corner stone of which Mr. Greenhalgh laid 27th June, 1878—to a public news room.

When, in 1869, the Mechanics' Institute Library was removed from Oxford Street to the new and commodious building at the corner of Mawdsley Street and Bold Street, the Library Committee of the Corporation secured the rooms thus vacated for a lending department, and the whole of the upper storey in the Market Square was devoted to reading and reference purposes. On the 30th July, 1879, a branch lending and reference library was inaugurated in the Little Bolton Town Hall building—its importance as a public institution having faded completely away, the last embers dying out, when, in November, 1876, the county police business of the division was transferred to the new premises in Castle Street—in High Street stands another branch thrown open to the public on

completion, 7th April, 1888, Ald. M. Fielding, Chairman of the Library and Museum Committee, presiding at the ceremony.

In November of the year in which the Bolton Free Library was opened the Liberal party in the Town Council regained supremacy. The party had been in a minority from 1844. On the 1st November (1853) the Liberals swept the whole of the wards—their twelve candidates being returned without opposition, and, six Conservative aldermen retiring, a like number of Liberals were elected to the vacancies. By this the Town Council became constituted of 35 Liberals and 13 Conservatives. In the preceding November the relative strength of parties was: Conservatives 27; Liberals 21. The Conservatives were paying indeed for their large expenditure of the public funds, notwithstanding that outlay had been on undertakings such as waterworks, a market hall, and free library. In 1854 again, twelve Liberal candidates were elected, thus bringing the number of Liberals in the Municipal Chamber to 40, and reducing the Conservative vote to 8; to be still further lowered through a bye-election to 7. Mr. John Stones was the last of the Conservative mayors under the regime which ended with October, 1853, and in November Mr. P. R. Arrowsmith, Liberal, was appointed. Not a single Conservative Town Councillor sat during the first year of the mayoralty of Mr. James Knowles, his successor, 1855-6, four Aldermen alone representing the party. The term of these four Aldermen expired in November, 1856, and as many Liberals superseded them. From this month, however, the tide begun to turn—four Conservatives were elected for an equal number of wards, and was the kernel of an ever increasing force, which in 1869 became a majority, and placed Mr. Thomas Walmsley in the position vacated by Mr. James Barlow—the last of the Liberal mayors from that time to the present.

In reply to a petition adopted by the Corporation in 1854, which was carried by 11 votes to 10, power was given to the Corporation to provide a public burial ground and manage it. Land was secured near Tonge Bridge, and lying between the Bury Road and Lever Bridge, which was deemed eligible. It was duly prepared and thrown open for interments December 26th, 1856. On December 22nd, 1879, the much-needed Cemetery at Heaton, 62 acres in extent, was first utilised for interments.

Another work of importance the Corporation took in hand was a more rigorous closing of cellar dwellings. They were seen in every quarter of the town. Damp, cramped, devoid of ventilation, and consequently unhealthy, hundreds of them were, and one gentleman who had entered the Town Council resolved that the fault should not be his if these places were not altogether closed to human nature. That gentleman was Dr. Fergus Ferguson. He became Chairman of the Sanitary Committee at the latter end of the year 1858, and, supported by Dr. Chadwick, who had just become a member of the Corporation, he urged the Council to strong efforts in this direction. Thereafter the Council spent thousands of pounds in compensating owners whose property they closed. The Council had done much before this. They had in 1855 caused a thorough inspection of cellars to be made, and had decided that 2,200 might be improved and rendered habitable. Upwards of 6,000 people lived in 1,600 cellars—in other words nearly one-twelfth of the population of the borough. Nor were members satisfied with closing cellar dwellings; they went further, and discussed the clearing away of dilapidated houses, and improved sewerage arrangements for the borough. They anticipated Mr. Disraeli when he cried *Sanitas sanitatum, omnia sanitas.* The Council adopted a resolution in 1860, passed by the Sanitary Committee, that the bed of the Croal be restored to its original depth at a cost of £2,000, that the accumulated filth might be removed, and the flow of the river hastened. Then the Council hesitated, went forward again, and eventually not only cleansed the river, but paved the bed and the banks, to the comfort, convenience, and health of the borough.

In the month of January, 1854, the Earl of Bradford generously gave a plot of land, 20 acres in extent, and lying off the Radcliffe Road, Haulgh, for the use of the public, and until the year 1863 this was the only recreation ground the residents in Bolton could enjoy. Mr. Robert Heywood was present at a meeting of operatives in 1852, when the contemplated exhibition to commemorate the passing of the Ten Hours Bill was discussed, and he moved a resolution that, in addition to the moral training of factory workers, something was required to improve their physical powers, and that in order to meet this requirement, a public park, in which to practise rural sports and gymnastic exercises, was highly desirable. Mr. T. L. Rushton seconded the

motion, which was agreed to; but the Town Council did not move in the matter. After waiting three years, Mr. Heywood offered the Corporation a plot of land in the neighbourhood of his residence, the Pike, for a recreation ground. Still the Municipal body made no sign. Again, in the year 1862, Mr. Heywood wrote to the Town Council to the same effect; the offer was accepted, and the Heywood Recreation Ground was opened at the top of High Street. At a meeting of the Town Council on the 16th September, 1863, Dr. Ferguson proposed that the recreation ground be extended by the purchase of a tract of land adjoining, the requisite money to be raised under the Public Works Act. There arose a long discussion on the provision and extension of recreation grounds, the Mayor (Ald. J. R. Wolfenden) suggesting, in particular, that a park be secured, not for one portion of the community only, but for all, by the acquisition of the ground near Spa Lane, and stretching from the river Croal to the Chorley New Road. Dr. Ferguson's motion was carried by the narrow majority of two votes, but the extension was delayed owing to dissatisfaction as to the price of the land and the influence of the party that had arisen favourable to the purchase of a park for the inhabitants at large. The Finance and General Purposes Committee took the question up of purchasing the land indicated by the Mayor, recommended that the Council should secure it, and their advice was followed, a resolution being come to that provision for the purchase be made in an Improvement Bill to be framed and submitted to Parliament. It was the year in which Mr. James Knowles resigned the office of Town Clerk, after holding it for 16 years; he was succeeded, as already stated, by Mr. Robert G. Hinnell. The Corporation obtained their Act, and in the month of October, 1864, it was stated in the Council Chamber that the estimated cost of forming, planting, and enclosing the Park—the site of which had then been purchased—was £88,890 6s. 5d. On the 24th May, 1866, the Park (in which now stands the Chadwick Museum, opened 12th June, 1884, Dr. Chadwick giving £5,000 towards it, and Mr. J. P. Thomasson £1000 towards the furnishing) was opened by the Earl of Bradford. His lordship presided on the same day at the inauguration of the Heywood Recreation Ground Extension. In July, 1875, a plot of land, divided from the Park by the Croal, and containing 41,625 square yards, was purchased by

the Corporation, and forms an extensive recreation ground, gymnastic apparatus being set up at one end and a bowling green at the other. A substantial footway known as the Dobson Bridge (named after the Chairman of the Parks and Burial Board Committee, Ald. B. A. Dobson) was formally opened.

Another lung—for parks and open spaces have been correctly termed the lungs of great towns—was added to the borough in 1869: the Darbishire Recreation Ground, off Waterloo street, Little Bolton. The offer was made by Mr. S. D. Darbishire and Mr. C. J. Darbishire (first Mayor of the borough), 23rd November, 1868, and was accepted by the Corporation in the same month. Plans for laying out the ground (12,000 square yards, and valued at £3,000) were prepared, a tender for carrying out the work was accepted, and, in the course of a few months, the Park was formally opened.

The newest acquisition in the shape of a recreation ground is the Mere Hall estate, most generously presented to the Corporation by Mr. J. P. Thomasson, in January, 1889. The hall was then thoroughly renovated, and is now set apart for the purposes of a library and museum. The building retains the old name of "Mere Hall."

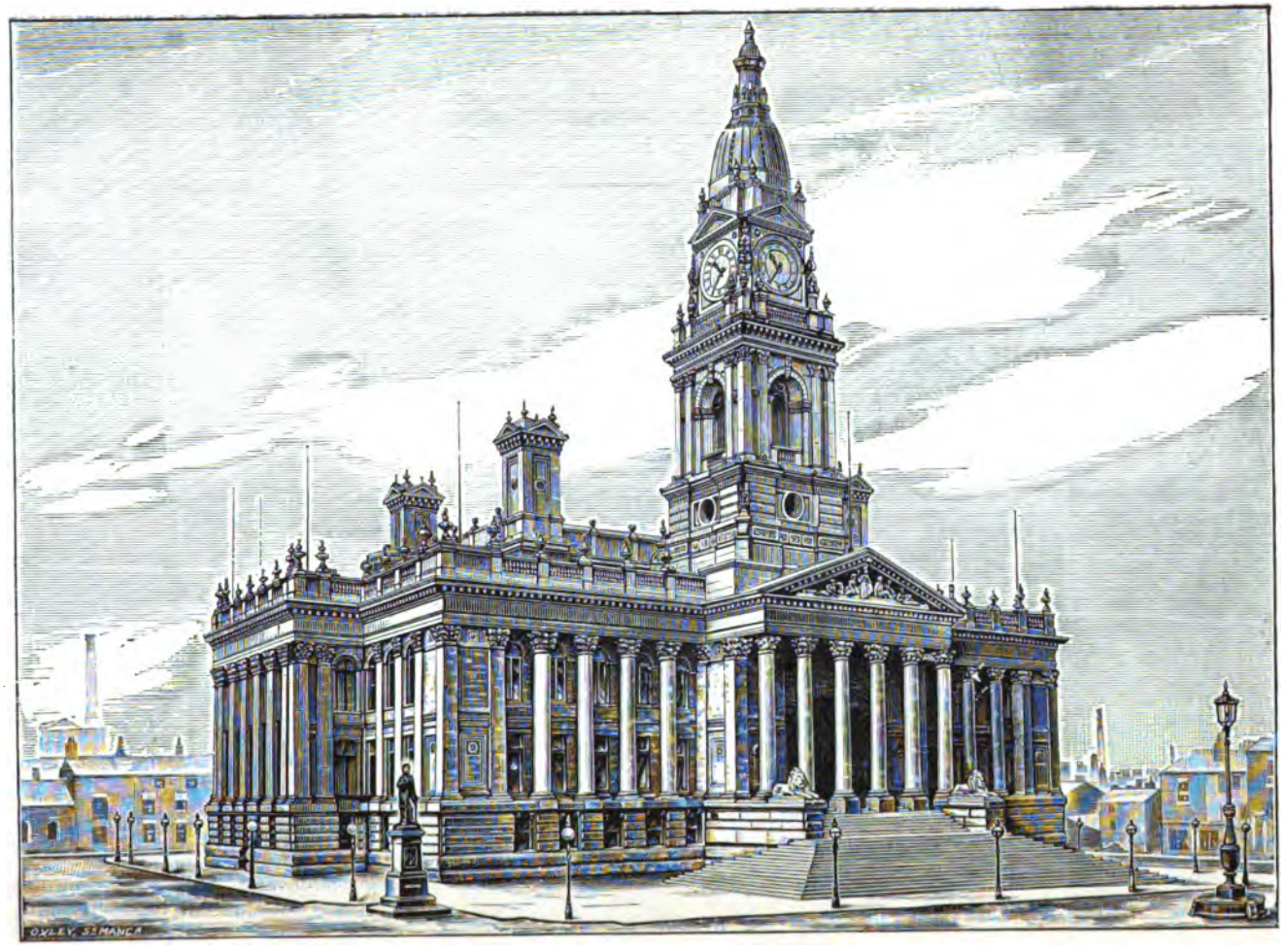
The birth of the Bolton Town Hall scheme took place in the same year as that in which the proposal for a park for the whole of the borough had its rise, that is to say in 1863. On the 18th of August a resolution, moved by Ald. J. R. Wolfenden, was carried by the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Corporation as follows: "That a Town Hall be erected, and that this Committee recommends the Council at its next meeting to appoint a Committee to recommend a site and to report generally upon the question; and subject to the resolution being approved of by the Council, the undermentioned members form the Committee: The Mayor (Ald. J. R. Wolfenden), Aldermen Brown, Makant, Stockdale, Orton, J. Harwood, R. Harwood, Ferguson, and Councillors Cannon, C. Heaton, Bolton, Greenhalgh, E. Barlow, Kenyon, Pilling, and Jas. Taylor. A Town Hall had, it may be mentioned, *inter alia*, been incidentally referred to by Mr. Alderman Wolfenden so far back as 1859, and again in 1860, but not until 1863 was the subject seriously broached. On the resolution of the Committee coming before the Council it was agreed to, when it was ordered that

Mr. Knowles, the Town Clerk, make inquiries as to the cost of municipal buildings in other towns. In the meantime possible sites were discussed, none finding more favour than that upon which the Town Hall stands, namely upon the west or Howell Croft side of the Market (Town Hall) Square, and to enlarge which it was necessary to remove the old Post-office buildings, a number of houses, and the old Pot Market. The site was adopted in face of some opposition from those in the town who wished the Council to wait a few years longer before committing itself to such a scheme, although the estimated outlay was set down at the hour at not more than £80,000 (including purchase of site). A bill for acquiring power of purchase of property and erection of the municipal building was drafted.

An unexpected obstacle arose in the Poor-law Board—from whom it was intended to borrow the requisite money—refusing to advance the sum on the plea that town halls could not be erected from their funds. It was overcome by falling back upon the Public Works Loan Commissioners. The Improvement Bill passed the House of Commons as slightly amended, and a sub-committee having elected to follow on the lines of the Leeds Town Hall, which had cost £105,000, tenders were advertised for, conditions being that the building was to cover an area of 4,300 yards, that the estimated cost (exclusive of site) was not to exceed £40,000, and that the Gothic style of architecture was not to be adopted. The site, with the property upon it, was valued at the time at nearly £30,000, and so alarmed were many people that there was a loud outcry against the whole scheme. The movement went on however. Professor Donaldson, President of the Institute of British Architects, selected, according to instructions, six of the best designs of 39 sent in; the six were submitted to the Town Hall Committee. Disagreement arose upon them and confusion reigned for a period. Emboldened by what leaked out from the committee meetings and by what was spoken in the Council Chamber, the opponents of a large expenditure upon a Town Hall came to the front again, and protested against the outlay of any sum approaching £100,000, as was now mentioned. They pointed to the fact that loans of many thousands of pounds were being sought for Waterworks and Park purposes, that a great debt had been incurred by the building of the Market Hall and by sanitary and street improve-

ments, while trade in the town was very bad indeed. Distress had, in truth, been intensified by the prolongation of the Civil War in America, the Board of Guardians alone having the names of nearly 5000 applicants upon their books at one time, and the Cotton Famine Relief Fund was still extensively drawn upon. Even Mr. P. R. Arrowsmith, who had followed Mr. R. Stockdale (the mayor), as the Chairman of the Town Hall, paused. He supported, in the Council Chamber, a memorial against the outlay. To a motion by him there were two amendments, one limiting the expenditure upon the Town Hall building to £40,000, and another pledging the Council not to exceed £50,000 for site and building. For each amendment 17 votes were given, and when the Mayor gave his casting vote for the last-named proposition, "confusion was worse confounded." As a way out of the dilemma, the whole matter was referred back to the Committee for consideration who, in turn, determined that the Town Hall, if erected, should not cost more than £40,000. There were other motions and amendments, and much vexation of spirit in the Council Chamber and away from it until Ald. J. R. Wolfenden, who had been out of the Council for a short period re-entered it, delivered a masterly speech, in which he proved conclusively that the finances of the Corporation were in a sound and satisfactory condition, and that its prospective resources were such, in reference to any reasonably and prudently conducted expenditure for carrying out of special undertakings in progress, and projected, as could give no just cause for pecuniary distrust in connection with them. The Corporation had assets, he said, in excess of liabilities, amounting to £76,000.

Such was the confidence inspired by Ald. Wolfenden's address that a resolution was carried that in the opinion of the Council the finances of the Corporation being admitted to be in a sound and satisfactory state, it was desirable the Town Hall, so long in contemplation, should be vigorously proceeded with, and that it be a direction to the Town Hall Committee to take all necessary steps in reference to it. Ald. J. R. Wolfenden became Chairman of that Committee. He reported to the Council that 9000 square yards of land had been secured for a site, that the building would not cover more than 2,700 square yards instead of 4,800 square yards, as had been contemplated, and that provision would not be made for a library and museum



Bolton Town Hall.

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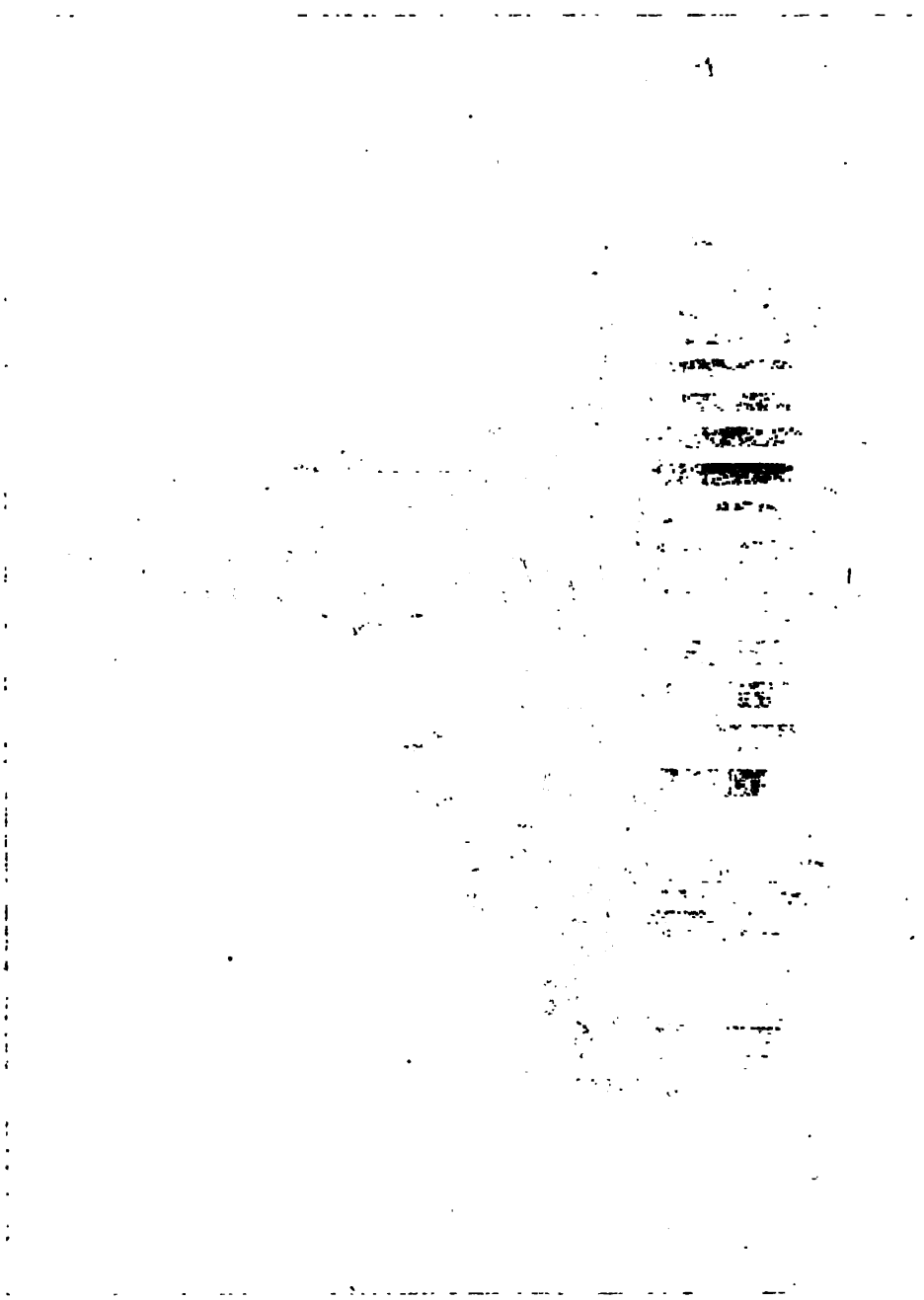


in the building, as originally contemplated. The cost of the erection and site (extended with approaches and adjuncts to 12,222 square yards) was set down at about £75,000. Mr. W. Hill, of Leeds, and Mr. Geo. Woodhouse, of Bolton, were appointed architects. The new scheme was put into operation on the completion of the purchase of the site and property upon it for £33,638, though a lion sprung into the path again in the early part of the year 1866. There was a tough battle over the question of a tower, estimated to cost £7,000. At last the advocates of the tower won the day. The building tender of Messrs. Ellis and Hinchcliffe was accepted, and the work of building proceeded uninterruptedly. To cut a long story short, in homely parlance, the erection begun in 1866, was completed in 1873,—ten years after the constitution of the first Town Hall Committee,—and the Prince of Wales, who had consented to formally open the building promised to perform the ceremony on the 5th June. True to the assurance thus given, his Royal Highness, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, came to Bolton from Wigan, where he had opened a new infirmary building. A most enthusiastic welcome was accorded to the royal party by the inhabitants at large, processions, decorations, and cheering, a banquet and school treats being the order of the day, while at night the town was illuminated to an unprecedented extent. With their royal highnesses came the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Bradford, Lord and Lady Ellesmere, Lord and Lady Crawford and Balcarres, Lord and Lady Lindsay, Lord and Lady Muncaster, Lady Emily Kingscote, Lady Ormonde, General Sir James and Lady Sarah Lindsay, Lady Mary Butler, Col. Wilson-Patten (Lord Winmarleigh) and Miss Wilson-Patten, Major-General Lysons, and Sir William Knollys. Alderman William Walter Cannon was mayor of the borough (the second in the new Conservative regime). Councillor J. Wood was chairman of the Town Hall Committee. Ald. Wolfenden had severed his connection with the Council in 1870. He was followed in the chairmanship by Councillors H. Sharp, Ald. J. Knowles, and Councillors John Wood.

The total cost of the Town Hall buildings (Classic in design) was £166,418. In it are provided a great hall (Albert Hall), 112 feet long by 56 feet wide and 56 feet high, estimated to accommodate 1800 persons. The Council Chamber is 47 feet

long by 32 feet wide; the Mayor's Banqueting Room, 68 feet by 24 feet; and the Mayor's Reception Room is 21ft. square. Each apartment is magnificently decorated. The offices are those belonging to the Town Clerk, the Borough Treasurer, the Medical Officer of Health, Borough Surveyor, Waterworks Superintendents, Rate Collectors, and Chief Constable, and there are rooms for the Borough Coroner, Public Prosecutor, and Magistrates' Clerk, besides a spacious Sessions Court, Grand Jury Room, and Corporation Committee Rooms. The police cells are at the rear of the building. The grand entrance fronts to the east and main part of the Town Hall Square, massive columns, mouldings, architrave, and cornice, and a noble flight of steps being the main features. In a tympanum over a fine portico are sculptured figures representing Commerce and Manufacture. A grand clock tower, with cupola, rises to a height of 200 feet. The total height of the fronts of the Town Hall to the top of the balustrade is 63 feet, while the Albert Hall, in the centre, is 81 feet high. In the hall is a grand organ built by Messrs. Gray and Davison, of London. Beneath the floor of the hall is the police parade room; the prison cells adjoin.

On the 13th December, 1871, the Town Council passed a resolution to purchase the property of the Bolton Gas Company. The works in Gas Street, Moor Lane, had to be supplemented by others in Lum Street; new holders were erected, and from first to last matters were satisfactorily arranged with the Company. On the 18th July, 1872, all speculation and the like in the matter was set at rest by an Improvement Bill, providing for the transfer of the works to the Corporation, for the inclusion of Daubhill and a portion of Rumworth in the borough, while the alteration of the ward boundaries receiving the Royal assent. On the 28th August, 1868, handsome offices, in the Venetian-Gothic style of architecture, were opened in Hotel Street. Store rooms and a fittings department are attached.

In November, 1873, the first municipal elections after the alteration of ward boundaries (provided for in the Improvement Act of 1872), and the creation of North Ward took place. Much interest centred upon the contest, where, for the three seats there were six candidates—three Conservatives and an equal number of Liberals. A Conservative headed the poll, a Liberal was one vote behind him, and two candidates, one being

nominated by each political party, polled 306 votes each. The Presiding Alderman (Mr. Thomas Walmsley) was requested to exercise his prerogative of choosing between the two, and he selected the nominee of the Liberals. Alderman Walmsley was a staunch Conservative.

The need of direct and easy communication between Moor Lane and the west end of Deansgate with St. George's Road and the Chorley Roads was experienced for many, many years. The only way for traffic was White Lion Brow and Chorley Street, which in parts was narrow, winding, uneven, and hilly, or a circuitous route along one-half of Deansgate, the whole length of where Knowsley Street now stands, and which originally was unseemly and unsafe, and thence up Bath Street into the St. George's Road. To traverse King Street or Grime Street was impossible, for while a light wooden bridge was the only means at the foot of King Street by which the Croal could be crossed on to the north bank of the river, Grime Street was quite inadequate, owing to its peculiar formation, for traffic purposes. The Town Council were painfully aware of the shortcomings. How to remedy the evil was the question. The Croal valley was steep and wide at all points, and blocks of property would have to be removed if a direct course was to be made between Deansgate and St. George's Road. In 1873, when street improvements were being carried on at an unusual rate, the Council resolved to grapple boldly with the difficulty. Old, and in many cases, dilapidated dwellings were purchased and razed to the ground, and at the close of the year 1874 was commenced the construction of a fine high level thoroughfare, now known as the Marsden Road. The acquisition of shop and house property cost the Corporation £40,000. The work of construction was not done for less than £25,000. There were repeated and animated debates of course upon the subject, and the question of cost was discussed with marked feeling, when there was a partial collapse of the massive stonework, and the bed of the Croal was blocked by masonry. Had it not been for the boisterous fun created by the offer of a north country diver to go down into the "depths" of the Croal—about a foot deep hereabouts, instead of scores of feet, as the diver imagined—to bring up all that was valuable and remove the obstruction to the free flow of the river, the wordy warfare would have been bitter indeed. However, the breach

was restored, and amid some ceremony, on the 19th May, 1877, Alderman P. C. Marsden, Chairman of the Streets Committee, declared the roadway open to the public. The thoroughfare is 300 yards long and 20 yards in width.

In the year succeeding upon that in which the construction of the Marsden Road was begun, the Town Council carried out a task which was painful and delicate, but, as events proved, none the less necessary. This was a critical investigation into every department of the Corporation. As the outcome of a speech delivered by Alderman James Greenhalgh on the 8th March, a meeting of the General Purposes Committee was held, when the Alderman told the members, as he had the Council, that from circumstances he had noticed he was convinced an overhauling of each department should take place without delay. The Committee concurred, and appointed a Departments Inquiry Sub-Committee, with Alderman Greenhalgh as chairman. For several months the duties of this small body of gentlemen were pursued with industry and patience. Inquiries were prosecuted from the Town Clerk's department downwards, not a book nor a paper escaping notice, and officials and clerks were examined upon matters, even of the smallest detail. Not till the 2nd June, 1876, did the Committee terminate their labours, when they were deservedly thanked by the Council and the town at large. They had found disorganisation and laxity in more than one department, and they made recommendations to which the Council paid very early attention. They had not been at work long when they were induced to engage a professional and independent accountant to go through the finances of the borough. Books were asked for from one official who refused to comply, and he was suspended by the Waterworks Committee in consequence. A search was made for books and papers in drawers and safes, but "Ledger 'B'" was nowhere to be seen. A prosecution of the official before the Magistrates was ordered, and there being sufficient evidence of defalcations, the Magistrates held, to warrant a committal to the Manchester Assizes, a removal to the gaol was made accordingly. Mr. Justice Lush confirmed the decision of the Bench by sentencing the offender to penal servitude for five years. The head of another department was dismissed from the service of the Corporation (not for dishonesty), and the oversight of the Waterworks offices and undertakings was divided between two properly qualified individuals.

Fever patients are not treated at the Bolton Infirmary. The Town Council have made provision for those in a position to pay for care and maintenance; those who are not may take advantage of the fever wards at Fishpool. The Sanitary Committee of the Corporation acquired a plot of land in Willows Lane, Rumworth, for the purpose of a Fever Hospital, and on the 23rd February, 1882, operations were commenced. The corner stone was laid 6th May, by Mr. Josiah W. Taylor, Chairman of the Committee; the work was pushed rapidly forward, and on 25th August, 1883, the wards were ready for the reception of patients. The hospital is on the pavilion principle, and the most modern arrangements have been observed. Mr. M. Robinson was the architect, and Messrs. J. H. & G. Marsden, the builders.

The proposal to provide Bolton and the neighbourhood with tramways was first mooted in the Town Council Chamber on the 15th August, 1877. A few cities and boroughs had then experienced benefits from them as compared with slow, rumbling, ill-lighted omnibuses. No one was astonished, therefore, when the General Purposes Committee of the Corporation were requested "to consider what action should be taken with respect to the construction of tramways within and in connection with the borough." The Committee discussed the matter, inquiries were made from public bodies as to the cost, and so forth, of tramways, and, in conjunction with the Local Boards of Farnworth, Astley Bridge, and Kersley, the Corporation applied to Parliament for a provisional order under the Tramways Act of 1870, authorising the construction of the tram lines. The practical work of laying the lines was begun in 1880, upon Manchester Road, the Gowan system, by which the sleeper and the rail (of steel) are combined, having been adopted. The cost per mile was set down at £4000, and the total length when completed was estimated at 23 miles. Messrs. E. Holden and Co., of Clarence Yard, became the first lessees of the tramways. To Alderman Barnes, Chairman of the Streets Committee of the Corporation, belongs no small meed of praise for the success which has attended the initiation and completion of the tramways system in and around Bolton.

The boundaries of the borough have been extended twice for Municipal and once for Parliamentary purposes. In March,

1868, an Act was obtained by which a portion of the Astley Bridge polling district and part of Halliwell were taken from the county division and joined to the Bolton Parliamentary district, the first of the boundaries extension for municipal objects taking place by virtue of a Bill which received the Royal assent 18th July, 1872, and by which thickly populated Daubhill and a portion of Rumworth, adjoining, were included. Rumworth Ward was thus created, and on the opening day of November the first election of representatives to the Town Council Chamber was held. The ward sends three Councillors. One Alderman sits for the ward, also. Another Improvement Bill, furthered by the Bolton Corporation, received the Royal assent on the 2nd August, 1877—one by which it was sought to include several of the out-townships, and so extend very considerably the boundaries of the borough. A great amount of opposition was offered to the scheme, ratepayers in the rural districts objecting most strongly to inclusion. In the Committee Room of the House of Commons there was a tough struggle upon the bill, and several witnesses were called against the Corporation. The consequence was that the promoters of the measure had not more than a partial triumph. Part of Halliwell only—as stated briefly elsewhere—was transferred for government to the Corporation, and that by consent of the Local Board, which thereupon became defunct, the Committee refusing to sanction the inclusion of other districts. At the same time the Corporation gained on many points. Consent was given to an alteration of financial arrangements on the Sinking Fund principle, to the borrowing of £300,000 for an elaborate sewerage scheme (including the erection of works for treatment, which have cost £30,000), gas, waterworks, park, streets, and cemetery improvements, to increasing the number of Aldermen in the Town Council from 14 to 16, and the Town Councillors from 42 to 48. The latter change was due to an agreement that Halliwell should have six Councillors in the Council Chamber, with two Aldermen. Another application for including Astley Bridge, a further portion of Halliwell district, Heaton, Tonge, Darcy Lever, Breightmet, and Great Lever proved totally abortive. This application was held by Local Government Inquiry in Bolton, 24th Oct., 1889.

The Conservatives have still an overwhelming majority

in the Town Council Chamber. The "labour" element, as such in candidature, had entirely disappeared in November, 1890. The sides were—Liberal and Conservative. Of the five candidates seeking re-election who were successful at the Municipal contest following on the great strike in the engineering trade* as labour delegates, one only was returned, and he as a political party man, the majority in Derby Ward, North Ward, and East Ward refusing to vote for them. Mr. Matthew Fielding was defeated in West Ward a second time after resigning his seat upon the Aldermanic Bench, but he acceded to a pressing invitation from the Conservative party in the Town Council to allow himself to be nominated for the Mayoralty. The 9th November, 1890, saw him duly installed.

MAYORS OF THE BOROUGH.

The gentlemen who have occupied the Mayoral chair are :—

1838-9	...Chas. Jas. Darbishire	L.	1865-6	...Richard Stockdale	L.
1839-40	...Robert Heywood	L.	1866-7	...Fergus Ferguson	L.
1840-41	...James Arrowsmith	L.	1867-8	...James Barlow	L.
1841-2	...Thos. Cullen	L.	1868-9	... „ „	„
1842-3	...Robert Walsh	L.	1869-70	...Thomas Walmsley	C.
1843-4	...Thos. Gregson	L.	1870-1	... „ „	„
1844-5	...John Slater	L.	1871-2	...William Walter Cannon	C.
1845-6	...Stephen Blair	C.	1872-3	... „ „	„
1846-7	...James Scowcroft	C.	1873-4	...Jeremiah Marsden	C.
1847-8	...Thos. Ridgway Bridson	C.	1874-5	... „ „	„
1848-9	...Thos. Lever Rushton	C.	1875-6	...Charles Wolfenden	C.
1849-50	... „ „	„	1876-7	... „ „	„
1850-1	...William Gray	C.	1877-8	...James Greenhalgh	C.
1851-2	... „ „	„	1878-9	...Peter Crook Marsden	C.
1852-3	...John Stones	C.	1879-80	...Henry Marriott Richardson	C.
1853-4	...Peter Rothwell Arrowsmith	L.	1880-1	...Joseph Musgrave	C.
1854-5	... „ „	„	1881-2	...Thomas Glaister	C.
1855-6	...James Knowles	L.	1882-3	...E. Green Harwood	C.
1856-7	... „ „	„	1883-4	... „ „	„
1857-8	...William Makant	L.	1884-5	...Thomas Fletcher	C.
1858-9	... „ „	„	1885-6	... „ „	„
1859-60	...John Orton	L.	1886-7	... „ „	„
1860-1	...John Harwood	L.	1887-8	...Thomas Moscrop	C.
1861-2	...Jas. Rawsthorne Wolfenden	L.	1888-9	...John Barrett	C.
1862-3	... „ „ „	„	1889-90	... „ „	„
1863-4	...Richard Harwood	L.	1890-1	...Matthew Fielding	C.
1864-5	...Richard Stockdale	L.	1891-2	...William Nicholson	C.

Not long after the celebration of the "jubilee" of the Corporation in 1888, a movement was set on foot towards making Bolton a county borough. On 1st April, 1889, the new dignity was attained. A grant of Arms was made 5th June, 1890. The arrangement for the new Arms came none too soon,

* See Chapter XLIV.

the "bearings" of the old one being quite inappropriate. Captain O. L. Perry has well described in his "Bolton Super Moras" sketch the new armorial bearings. He says, "ARMS—*Gules*, two Bendlets, or, a Shuttle with weft pendent, between an Arrow point upwards, and a Mule [in memory of Crompton's invention of the mule], Spinning Spindle in chief palewise, all of *the last*; and an escocheon in base of *the second*; thereon a Lancastrian rose, of *the first*, barbed and seeded proper. CREST—Upon a mountainous moor an Elephant *statant proper*; on its back a castle *or*; thereon a Rose (as in the Arms); the trappings per pale *gules* and *vert* and charged with a Mitre [in memory of the long connection of Bolton-le-Moors with the diocese of Coventry] also *or*. MOTTO—Supera Moras."

CHAPTER XLIII.

TRADES AND INDUSTRIES.

An "Aulneger" Appointed to Bolton—Local Cloth Trades in 1160*—Flemings Settle in Bolton* 1337*—Coal Discovered —The Fustian Trade in* 1633*—Bolton "Augsburgh's"—Cotton Manufacture in the Seventeenth Century—Cotton Importations in* 1758*—Arkwright—Crompton's Spinning Mule—Machine Breaking—Continued Stagnation—"A Desperate Faction"—The Luddites—Westhoughton Factory Fired: Executions at Lancaster—Another Crisis: Precautions in Bolton—Operatives Famishing—Petitions for the Ten Hours' Bill—General Suffering—Lord Shaftesbury in Bolton—Crompton's Monument Inaugurated—Cotton Panic.*

THE fame of Bolton as a manufacturing town has been active for ages. Baines says* that "as early as the reign of Richard I. an aulneger, or measurer by the ell, was appointed in this place (Bolton), and as his office was to measure all cloth made for sale, and to mark them with the King's seal, bearing the maker's name and the length of the pieces, it is probable that the woollen cloth trade existed here as early as the Twelfth Century." The county historian is quite

* *Baines's History of Lancashire* (1868 Edition), Vol. I., p. 556.

right, for in the year 1160 (6th Henry II.) a woollen cloth trade was actually conducted in Bolton, and in 1251 (36th Henry III.), Bolton was raised by Charter to the dignity of a market town. Chief Justice Coke has written that in 1224 a statute was passed that one breadth of dyed cloth, russets, and haberjects should "be two yards within the lists." Doubtless many a Bolton weaver and manufacturer in those early days has submitted to the ruling of the aulneger and, willingly or unwillingly, to the provisions made for regulating the sale of the products cast off from the primitive looms of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries.

In the year 1337 a party of Flemings settled in Bolton. They were brought over by emissaries who had been sent among them by Edward III., and introduced the manufacture of what were called "cotton goods," though they were in reality "woollen,"—the so-called cotton being prepared from the wool of the sheep. Fuller, in speaking of these times, says: "Hitherto the English race were ignorant of that art, as knowing no more what to do with their wool than the sheep that wear it, as to any artificial curious drapery; their best clothes then no better than friezes, such was their coarseness for want of skill in making." But soon afterwards followed a great alteration. It was about this period, in the Fourteenth Century, that coal was discovered in Lancashire.

Leland, the antiquarian, who was commissioned by Henry VIII. to visit Lancashire, says in his "Itinerary" of 1558: "Bolton-upon-Moore Market stondeth most by cotton and coarse yerne. Divers villages in the Mores about Bolton do make cottons. Nether the site nor the ground abowte Bolton is so good as it is abowte Byri. The burne at Bolton some canale, but more so cole—of the wich the pittes be not far off. They burne Turfe also."

Another author, Blome, writing about a century later, describes Bolton as "a fair well-built town, with broad streets; hath a market on Mondays, which is very good for clothing and provisions, and is a place of great trade for fustians." The name "fustian" was derived from a coarse cotton fabric, manufactured to a large extent from the Tenth to the Fifteenth Century by the houses of Spain, to which they gave the name of "fuste."

The following account of the state of trade at a later date has been given:—"Fustians were manufactured about Bolton, Leigh, and the places adjacent, but Bolton was the principal market for them, where they were bought in the gray by the Manchester chapmen, who finished and sold them in the country. The fustians were made as early as the middle of the last Century (about 1640 to 1650), when Mr. Chetham, who founded the Blue Coat Hospital, was the principal buyer at Bolton. When he had made his markets the remainder was purchased by a Mr. Cooke, a much less honourable dealer, who took the advantage of calling the pieces what he pleased, and giving his own price. The Manchester traders went regularly on market days to buy pieces of fustian of the weavers, each weaver then procuring yarn or cotton as he could, which subjected the trade to great inconvenience. To remedy this, some of the chapmen furnished warps and wool to the weavers. They also encouraged weavers to fetch them from Manchester; and by prompt payment and good usage endeavoured to secure good workmanship." And Baines, "The first mention of the manufacture of real cotton goods, mixtures of woollen and cotton, made in Lancashire, is in 1641, on the eve of the civil wars, and Bolton is named as a principal seat of the manufacture of fustians, vermillions, and dimities."

The cotton manufacture, as we now use that term, did not commence till about the middle of the Seventeenth Century, and continued for a long time on so small a scale that in 1750 the value of the whole cotton manufactures in the kingdom did not exceed £200,000. In 1774, fabrics made entirely of cotton were declared by Act of Parliament to have been lately introduced, and were allowed as "a lawful and laudable manufacture;" but a duty of threepence the square yard was imposed upon any piece that was "printed, painted, or stained."

Formerly, when the cotton was spun by hand, it was no uncommon thing for a weaver to walk three or four miles in a morning, and call on five or six spinners before he could collect enough yarn to serve him for the remainder of the day. This was exasperating enough; nay, the scarcity of material upon which to work often deterred the weaver from working in spite of close searches and inquiries for it. The dearth was vexatious, too, because cotton goods were in increased demand—a demand the

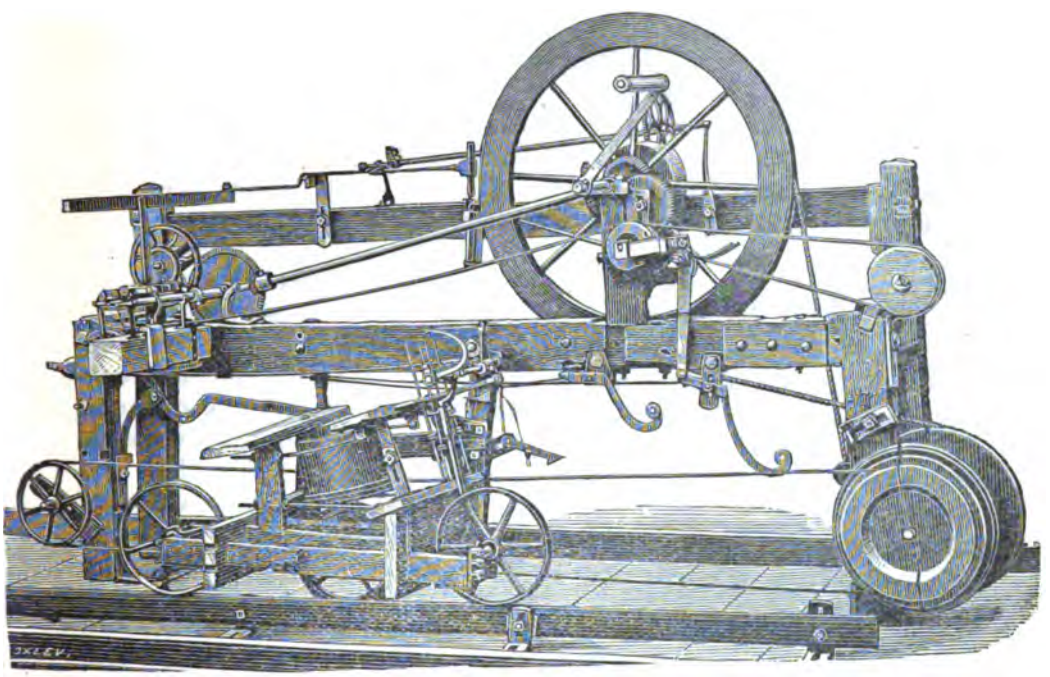
workpeople quite expected to meet, when John Kay, a native of Bury, improved the action of the shuttle to such an extent that nearly double the quantity of cloth could be got from the loom than obtained when the shuttle had to be thrown by hand. There was hope, however, when in 1767, James Hargreaves, of Blackburn, invented the Spinning Jenny, and when, as the vast importance of his discovery became widely known and was

Saml Crompton

taken advantage of, yarn was produced in far greater quantities. The weavers in Bolton and in Lancashire had truly cause to thank him, as had the labourers in the cotton spinning world, and with them the masters and the dealers.

But there was a genius at work in the neighbourhood of Bolton whose invention was destined to revolutionise the manufactures and trade of Bolton, and to give an impetus to cotton

spinning and weaving, wherever pursued, such as had never been experienced beforetime—an impetus that has continued to expand and develop, and which will do so to the close of time. We refer to Samuel Crompton, born at Firwood Fold, Tonge, in the parish of Bolton, 3rd December, 1753. Richard Arkwright, a Bolton barber, had done much towards improving the production of yarn by his application of spinning rollers, and by utilising water as a motive power; Hargreaves, of Blackburn,



MULE MADE AND USED BY CROMPTON, IN KING STREET, BOLTON.
(*The Original is the Property of Messrs. Dobson & Barlow.*)

had invented the spinning jenny, and one of his machines was actually worked by Crompton in spinning. Yet Crompton was to accomplish something more wonderful in its results. His invention was that of the Spinning Mule, in the year 1779, after five years' continual labour. This invention he put into practice himself privately, and turned out yarns that astonished and delighted everyone in search of fine spinning. Ultimately

Crompton was prevailed upon to "give" his invention to the manufacturers and public, without patenting it; a course bitterly regretted ever afterwards. The only acknowledgments he received were paltry private subscriptions and a Government grant of £5000. A memorial slab was placed over Crompton's grave in the Bolton Parish Churchyard, 24th January, 1861, as previously stated—the monument in Nelson Square was unveiled 24th September, 1862, a general holiday being declared for the occasion.*

The Napoleonic wars worked terrible havoc with the industries and trade of Bolton early in the present Century, in common with the trade of other countries. In the year 1808 the distress and suffering were so marked in Bolton that the people forwarded to Col. Stanley a petition for peace, to be presented by him in the House of Commons. The Ministry were anxious for peace. Mr. Canning declared in reply to the prayer that he had no hesitation in saying that the measure of petitioning for peace was only calculated to defeat the wished-for purpose. He asserted, on behalf of the Ministry, that the lower classes were deceived and instigated "to this ill-timed conduct" by designing men, whose principal aim was to harass the existing Government, and to promote "the latent views of a desperate faction." In 1812 another petition went to the House of Commons from Bolton, setting forth that the people of the town were in a state of starvation. Not a few of the operatives became positively desperate. They scarcely knew what to do, and whither to turn. They joined the Luddites (who took their names from a fellow designated "General Lud"), met in secret, hundreds of them, in Bolton and other manufacturing towns of Lancashire, and, goaded on by the more wicked and careless, shared in passing resolutions that could lead only to sedition and the destruction of property. At one of these assemblies, held in the country, between Deane Moor and Chowbent, those present were incited to march into the adjoining township of Westhoughton, and burn to the ground the manufacturing and weaving mill of Messrs. Wroe and Duncough, whose offices were in Manchester.

* For full details of Crompton's career and invention see French's "Life of Samuel Crompton," published in 1862, and reprint of a paper (in Public Library) by W. Pimblett, before the local Mill Managers' Association, in November, 1891.

Spies appear to have been sent out to these meetings, and soon information of the mob which had started for Westhoughton was conveyed to Bolton. With all haste, a company of cavalry, quartered in the town, and a number of the Bolton Light Horse Volunteers, were *en route* to overtake the rioters, and were followed by men of the Local Militia. The would-be destroyers of property were met and dispersed. One account* has it that ere the military had reached Bolton again the factory had been fired by the mob. Another statement† is to the effect that the outrage was debated (as appeared by evidence brought forward in the Assize Court at Lancaster) at a meeting which took place on Deane Moor, 9th April, 1812, sixteen days before the scheme was put into execution. At any rate, twelve men and two women were indicted at Special Commission in Lancaster Castle for setting fire to the Westhoughton factory. After a patient hearing extending from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., ten of the prisoners were discharged; four, Job Fletcher, James Smith, Thomas Kerfoot, and Abraham Charleston, were found guilty, and were sentenced to death. Charleston's age was 12 years. On the 11th June, he, with the three others named, were hanged. The firing of the factory took place 24th April (1812).

At length peace was restored at home and abroad. Trade improved once more; industries were extended. In the year 1826 there was another crisis in trade—it was depressed, and steam having been applied in numberless weaving establishments, the hand-loom workers were confident their occupation was going from them altogether. Lancashire was again deeply affected, therefore; the pinch of hunger and the sad outlook because of the extensive introduction of steam for hand-power culminated in rioting and machine breaking in several of the Lancashire centres. It has been tersely stated,‡ "Weaving was extensively carried on at Bolton, and here, also, strong antipathies were manifested towards the new system. Groups of idlers gathered togethered in the streets, and menacingly discussed the new state of things. The authorities were, as usual, on the alert, and adopted precautionary measures. A strong force of special constables were sworn in at the Sessions

* A newspaper paragraph of the period.

† By Dr. Taylor, of Manchester, in reply to a printed statement issued in 1819.

‡ Political and Parliamentary History of Bolton, by W. Brimelow. Vol. I., pp. 47 and 48.—1882.

Room. The Bolton Yeomanry were called up, and remained under arms during the last ten days of April. Three hundred Pensioners were called out, arms and ammunition being brought from Manchester for their use. The owners and occupiers of mills containing the new machinery—there being at that time about one thousand power-looms in the town—prepared for the defence of their property, by fixing pieces of cannon in position and arming their workpeople. Fortunately, however, and to the credit of Bolton weavers, although they had much to complain of, there was no such resort to violence here as elsewhere in the country. It has been stated that the town was altogether free from damage, but this was not so. A return issued in March of the following year shows that the townships of Great and Little Bolton were assessed to pay the sum of £224 14s. 3d. to cover damage to machinery during tho loom-breaking riots in 1826; the former township being assessed at £158 14s. 3d., and the latter £66. A public meeting was held in the town, at which the condition of trade was discussed, and the employers adopted a new list of wages, which, if not satisfactory, at least had the effect of helping to bridge over the difficulty, and to calm down the angry excitement of the distressed operatives." But the condition of things remained far from satisfactory. The weavers urged in one petition that they were absolutely famishing, their houses were in many cases bereft of furniture, they had to be content with straw and shavings for beds, and miserable rags for coverings, "whilst the haggard looks of the husband and wife, and the squalid appearance of the groups of starving children and their piercing cries for bread, combined with the terrible maledictions uttered against the supposed authors of their calamities, rendered this once flourishing town a scene of indescribable wretchedness." Moreover, tradesmen and owners of cottage property were fast sinking into ruin. The Government were communicated with, but no particular satisfaction was obtained, neither was any interference with the rate of wages by Parliament promised.

The Reform Bill passed into law, and Bolton being represented in Parliament by two members, local operatives looked forward with more lively anticipation to the future. They were sure their complaints would have a better hearing and that with the expressions of workers in other large towns

they would arouse the sympathies of the House of Commons. On the 16th January, 1833, therefore, a Committee meeting of weavers was held at the Queen Anne Inn. They memorialised the Government, through Col. Torrens and Mr. Bolling, against the retention of the taxes upon raw material and cotton goods as being very injurious to trade. They had petitioned, after obtaining the signatures of 11,000 persons, on the same lines in 1831, and now they had the satisfaction of learning that the memorial had not been forgotten. Thousands of spinners, weavers, bleachers, tradesmen, and employers in Bolton and district petitioned in favour of the Ten Hours Bill, furthered by Lord Ashley (afterwards Earl Shaftesbury), and general meetings of representatives from towns in the United Kingdom were held in Bolton in promotion of the measure. In the Autumn of 1832, four delegates from Bolton mills appeared to give evidence before a Commission appointed at Westminster to inquire into the state of trade. The progress of the Ten Hours Bill during the Session of 1833 was watched with feverish interest in Bolton. The master cotton spinners were naturally concerned as well as the operatives, and when a Commissioner was sent down to Bolton by the Board of Trade in July, a deputation appeared before him and informed him of resolutions passed at a meeting of employers to the effect that the working hours in one week should not exceed 69. Mr. Brimelow tells us that the only local firm who favoured night work in cotton mills was that of Messrs. Goodwin and Hughes, Rosehill. Both sets of their hands had good health. The night spinners earned from 16s. to 20s. per week, working 63½ hours; and the day spinners received from 28s. to 30s., working 67½ hours. Witnesses from the operatives were totally opposed to night work. One witness, Thomas Yates, said that in 1792 there were in Bolton about 150 spinners, 24,000 spindles, turned by hand, and 160 spindles upon the mule; in 1833 there were 17 mills in the town, 792 spinners, 580,216 mule spindles and 7,580 throstle spindles. As finally passed, the Bill prohibited the employment in factories of any person under 18 in the night time, or more than 12 hours in one day, or 69 in one week. The employment of children also received some attention. In 1834 Messrs. Thos. Myerscough and John Makin represented Bolton manufacturers, and Messrs. R. Needham and P. Halliwell the operative weavers, before a Committee of the

House of Commons appointed to inquire into trade matters, and gave very valuable evidence.

There is no necessity to follow closely the events in the cotton trade. Distress there was at intervals, owing mainly to bad trade and panic, and advances and falls in wages according to the volume of business. In 1841, alas! above one-half the cotton and weaving mills were very sorely affected, over 5000 people being altogether idle or working a few hours only each week, and in the year 1842 trade was still worse. But as the terrible condition of affairs has been described in Chapter 41, we will not stay to relate them here. A very different state of things ruled in Bolton in 1851, when, on 21st October a vast concourse of factory operatives gathered to greet Lord Shaftesbury, after subscribing to a magnificently illuminated address to be presented to him in recognition of twenty years' advocacy of the cause of the cotton operative. The year 1852, also, was one of brightness in the cotton trade, and an Exhibition in the Temperance Hall to celebrate the passing into law of the Ten Hours Bill was largely supported by loans and in attendance.

There was fearful depression again in 1855 in local trade, and consequent suffering, conditions for the amelioration of which schemes of relief were launched and conducted, while in November and December of 1858 there was more scarcity of employment, dearth of wages, and, in too many habitations, absolute want.

The year 1862 was one of deep distress in the manufacturing districts owing to the failure of the American cotton supply in consequence of the great Civil War. Relief Committees were established in Bolton, the Poor Protection and Benevolent Societies were, with the Board of Guardians, constantly engaged in giving succour; a public meeting for the alleviation of the distress was held, and £4000 was collected and distributed to the deserving poor.

The end of the year 1863 came ere the number of the unemployed operatives and those seeking relief in the town had gone down in any appreciable degree. Not, however, until the 20th May, 1865, was the local famine relief fund discontinued. Fully £10,000 had been subscribed. Thereafter trade continued to improve. Since 1870, trade and wages have fluctuated, and strikes have occurred. At the time of writing, however, the horizon is quite clear—rarely have the relations between employers and employed been so satisfactory.

CHAPTER XLIV.

TRADES AND INDUSTRIES.—(II.)

Bleaching Trade Established—Croft Breaking Rampant—Mutual Protection—Introduction of Steam—Peter Rothwell—Isaac Dobson—The Firm of Dobson and Barlow—Disputes—Labour Representation—Board of Conciliation—End of the 1887 *Strike—Moulders' Dispute—General Trade.*

IN the neighbourhood of Bolton, "bleaching of the very best quality in the kingdom is performed, and of late has been introduced by M. Vallete (an ingenious Frenchman) a more expeditious method of bleaching, so much that a piece of calico, which would have required by the customary process three weeks in the most favourable season, may now be rendered perfectly white in the space of one hour, and that, as it is said, without the least injury sustained by the cloth. The new process is somewhat more expensive than the old. And there is as much ingenuity displayed amongst the artificers in Bolton and its neighbourhood as in any part of the county."*

Many years prior to the date here referred to (1795), bleaching became an established trade in Bolton and the neighbourhood. More particularly does the remark apply to adjoining townships, where the bleaching and dyeing industries were, it

* Agriculture of Co. Lancaster, 1795, p. 213.

may be said, the only ones. Like the cotton manufacturers, the master bleachers were firm believers in unionism. Not a few are the records pointing to this, alike for offensive and defensive purposes. When trade was bad in times of war and in days of peace the members of the Bleachers Society did not hesitate to address the Government, and when anything threatened in Parliament to militate against the interests of the trade, by way of imposts, local bleachers were soon on the alert and petitioning. In the year 1784, the Ministry sought to impose upon bleachers the necessity of paying a licence, and they were called upon to make specific returns to the Inland Revenue department. This created considerable vexation, and, as the bleachers thought, quite unnecessary pecuniary outlay. Accordingly, the employers of Bolton and the neighbourhood met at the Society house, the Three Crowns, Deansgate, declared it was utterly impossible to conduct business under the restrictions heaped upon them, and went so far as to give notice that all bleaching and dyeing operations would cease upon their premises forthwith, the signatories including Messrs. Peter Ainsworth, James Cocker, Thomas Thweat, John Thweat, James Ainsworth, Thomas Ridgway, Samuel Hardman, and John Hardman. Owing, however, to agitation in Bolton and elsewhere, and to several thousands of hands being thrown out of employment, a tax proposed upon stuffs was repealed in 1785, and bleachers and manufacturers subscribed to testimonials of two silver cups to the chief promoters of the movement which had ended so favourably to the trades. In truth the bleaching trade was not invariably good and profitable, else there would not be the repeated announcements one finds in old prints of crofts and water mills for sale.

One great evil, and source of annoyance, croft owners had to contend with, was croft breaking. Pieces of cloth in process and lengths in a finished state were commonly exposed upon open spaces in and around the works, and doubtless there was a temptation to the lazy, the dishonest, and the marauder that does not now obtain. At all events, croft breaking seems to have been a positive mania about Bolton, as well as in other districts, for years, nor were sentences of transportation for seven and fourteen years deterrent upon intending robbers. A death sentence even would not keep every designing fellow from burglary and plunder in bleaching grounds; here, there, and

everywhere was the thief busy—in Bolton, at Horwich, Great Lever, Little Lever, Breightmet, Tonge, Turton, Halliwell, and other neighbouring places, as well as farther away. Within the course of twelve months, in 1782, cloth and general manufactures had been stolen from crofts, bleaching grounds, and dye houses in the Manchester and Bolton districts to such an extent that in the same year a combination of masters was formed for mutual protection, and substantial rewards were offered for the conviction of robbers and receivers. The Bolton Committee were Messrs. Edward Rothwell, James Lomax, Peter Ainsworth, Thomas Ridgway, and James Morris.

If it can be said with force that happy is the industry that knows not trade disputes and ruptures, of a surety the bleaching, dyeing, and print trades of Bolton and district should be called "happy." In no branch of labour have fewer disturbances occurred in the relations between employers and employed than in the sections just mentioned. At one period business has been brisk, at another dreadfully depressed, but the raising and lowering in the scale of remuneration have followed with little or no friction, content still in the mind, hope ever active. Long hours there have been in these hives of industry and of peace—hours extending far into the evening and the night, alike for men and women. A decidedly shielding protection has come for the females engaged in crofts, printworks, and paper mills, and the men are by no means badly off now as regards the hours constituting a working day. A red letter day in this regard was 3rd August, 1861, when there was a large gathering of operative bleachers in the Temperance Hall, to present Mr. Jos. Crook with a time-piece, valued at seventy guineas, as an acknowledgment of his services in Parliament towards obtaining a shorter period of working each day.

Five years after the erection of the first spinning mill in Bolton—Mr. James Thweats or Thwaites as the owner, and the place King Street—steam was first applied as a motive power to cotton spinning machinery through the instrumentality of Watt and Boulton. A youth had then come to Bolton from Patterdale, in Westmoreland, who was destined to revolutionise in a larger degree the cotton spinning and manufacture of the district. Mr. Peter Rothwell, who was a cabinet maker, had established himself at the Union Foundry, in Blackhorse Street, and to him

this north-country youth went, and gave the best of his skill. The youth was Mr. Isaac Dobson. He developed into a mechanician of a high order—following theories and predilections of his own—as well as a practical cabinet maker. As may be readily seen, he was of the utmost use to Mr. Rothwell. That the latter saw in the young man abilities of an uncommon kind is to be inferred from the fact that a partnership was begun between them, as engineers and machinists, and that Mr. Isaac Dobson took the main responsibility and oversight of the machine making branch. This branch was established in the year 1790. From 1851 the firm honourably known as "Dobson's" became, by the admission of Mr. Edward Barlow, that of "Dobson and Barlow." Mr. T. H. Rushton, J.P., and Mr. B. A. Dobson, J.P., have been partners for twenty years, and, under them, business has ever developed. The vast establishment in Kay Street was opened in 1846. On Saturday, 5th July, 1890, about 3000 of the hands employed at the Kay Street Works proceeded to various seaside resorts at the generous invitation of the firm, in celebration of the Centenary of the works. On Saturday, 19th July, a monstre demonstration was held in the foundry, and handsome and costly testimonials of the high esteem of the employés were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Rushton and Mr. and Mrs. Dobson. In the latter part of 1891 the firm of "Messrs. Dobson and Barlow, Limited," was inaugurated, when a scheme of profit-sharing, for the special advantage of the workhands, was launched. The other machine works in the town are those off Lower Bridgeman Street, and owned by the executors of the late R. Threlfall.

If the local engineering firms cannot boast of such prolonged and extensive operations, they can point, at any rate, to equally honourable associations. The business conducted by Mr. Peter Rothwell (afterwards Messrs. Rothwell, Hick, and Rothwell), at the Union Foundry, Blackhorse Street, has fallen before the lapse of time, but the establishment worked by Mr. Benjamin Hick, Crook Street, and now recognised as the Soho Foundry, is still active. Here Mr. John Hick and Mr. William Hargreaves have conducted affairs with great success; and Mr. John Musgrave, founder of the firm of Messrs. John Musgrave and Sons, Globe Ironworks, Kay Street, was in a superior capacity for some time. Among the oldest workshops in the

town at one time was that owned by Messrs. Thomas Crook and William Dean, millwrights and engineers, Folds Road. The establishment collapsed long ago. It was followed in later years, in 1878, by the closing of the foundry in St. George's Street, worked by Messrs. Cole and Thompson, and subsequently by Messrs. Cole Bros., who retired in the year named. At the close of the year 1891 Messrs. J. and E. Woods, Victoria Foundry; Mr. C. L. Jackson's, Wharf Foundry; the Bolton Iron and Steel Company's establishment, in Moor Lane, and the Iron and Steel Works of Messrs. Thomas Walmsley and Son were in full operation. Never was the iron trade of Bolton more brisk than during the three years ending 31st December, 1891.

The history of the iron trade in Bolton proves, however, that orders have not always been great in volume, and that peace has not invariably prevailed as between capital and labour. There have been increases and decreases in the scale of wages according to the state of trade, and occasionally open ruptures with the compulsory closing of establishments owing to no agreement being arrived at. The number of disputes has not been larger, however, than in other towns of equal importance.

The disputes in the Bolton iron trade of the past pale into insignificance before the strike which commenced 14th May, 1887, and terminated 27th October of the same year—a strike following on the non-compliance of the employers to a request for 7½ per cent. advance in wages. Sufficient time has not elapsed since the termination of the strike (attended as it was by so much bitterness, by the calling in and the prolonged stay of the County Constabulary, and military from Manchester) to permit of any extended reference. Enough to state here that a Board of Arbitration of employers' and employés' representatives was formed, and that four meetings were held, the first on the 21st November, 1887. No agreement was come to, and Mr Pope, Q.C., the Recorder of Bolton, was appointed umpire. He presided at two further gatherings of the Board in January, 1888—the last being on the 13th—and on the 16th the learned gentleman gave his award, which was against the workmen. Mr. Pope held that the margin of profit did not permit of any advance in wages being given. In accordance with the original agreement, however, trade having sufficiently revived, and margin of

profit being better, the employers voluntarily restored the 7½ per cent. reduction on the first pay day of July, 1888. In August, 1890, the employers acceded to the working hours per week being reduced from 54 to 53.

During the progress of the strike a local Ratepayers Association was not satisfied with what was transpiring, and it was decided to run labour representatives for the Town Council. The first Labour candidate won a contested election in Derby Ward, 11th July, and on the 1st November Labour candidates carried a number of the wards. There were sixteen vacancies. For them 33 persons went to the poll, namely, 12 Conservatives, 5 Liberals, 10 representatives of the Labour party, and 6 Social Democrats. Three Liberals and 13 Conservatives had retired with the Municipal year. The officials of the Bolton Trades Council adopted the cause of the Labour candidates—as the Ratepayers Association was not properly matured, it was said. When the votes given at the election were counted it was seen that 6 Conservatives, 2 Liberals, and 8 of the 10 Labour candidates had been elected. Because of the election, the Town Council was left constituted of 41 Conservatives, 14 Liberals, and 9 Labour representatives. Opposition by the latter soon manifested itself. A vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor (Alderman Thos. Fletcher) was not allowed to go unchallenged on the 9th November, and month by month the Council meetings were stormy, particularly when claims for damages by foundry masters, and the cost of maintenance of constabulary were discussed. How the majority of the "Labour" representatives have disappeared from the Council Chamber, and how the "Labour" element failed to present itself at the more recent Municipal Elections, has been told in the closing words of the Municipal history of the borough. Neither has anything been publicly heard for some time of the Ratepayers Association, formed three years before. A strike of moulders on day wages for increase of pay took place on 22nd February, 1890, and was at length amicably arranged.

Many have been the agitations for advances in wages among the miners. In January and February, 1881, for instance, Bolton and nearly the whole of Lancashire experienced the effects of a great strike of miners for an advance in wages of 10 per cent. There were meetings, processions, and disturbances. Extra police were drafted into Bolton and district, and, ulti-

mately, the aid of the military had to be sought in certain neighbourhoods. The weather was terribly inclement throughout the period, snow, frost, and biting winds prevailing, and great was the suffering among the mining population. The strike collapsed in the first week of March without the colliers gaining what they had resolutely contended for. The general stoppage of collieries for one week, commencing the 12th March, 1892, and which affected the whole Bolton district, of course, will long be remembered for the inconveniences brought in its train.

Bolton can boast of a fair proportion of other trades, and of the needful skill in those callings. Unionism is a strong force, alike with capital and labour. The tendency is undoubtedly to band still closer together among kindred interests. Cabmen, lurrymen, and labourers entered, during 1890, combinations for the first time; shop assistants have started an association of their own also. Even the "piecers" in cotton mills have begun a society for the purposes of "mutual protection."

CHAPTER XLV.

POLITICAL AND PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS.

Early Political Life—The Corn Laws—Proposals for Redistribution and Reform—"Orator Hunt"—Mr. Robert Peel in Bolton—Pronounced Attitude of Colonel Fletcher—William Cobbett—Condemnation by the Reformers—Welcome to Henry Hunt—Hunt's First Victory at Preston—Bolton Political Union—Public Meeting on Reform—Two Members for Bolton—First Parliamentary Contest: Serious Disturbance: Result of the Polling—Anti-Corn Law League—Bolton Chartists Active—March to the Parish Church—Outrages in Church—Riot Act Read—Operatives Called Out of the Mills—Great Alarm—Mob Law—The Duke of Wellington and the Bolton Authorities—Darbishire Defence Meeting—Successive General Elections—Fenian Agitation—Dilke Riot in Bolton: Assize Trials.

THE terrible soul and body crushing years of the later wars for which Napoleon Bonaparte was responsible were not wholly past, when, on the 24th May, 1814, a large meeting took place under the chairmanship of Mr. Henry Casson, borough-reeve. The Corn Laws were then introduced for discussion. Resolutions were adopted that those present regarded the measure then before Parliament "for an alteration in the Corn Laws with the most lively

and alarming apprehensions, and as being fraught with dangerous consequences to the commercial and manufacturing interests of the country, that to keep up the price of corn was impolitic and unjust, operating as a tax upon the British industry, and as a bounty upon the labour of foreigners, and that whilst the commercial and manufacting interests had been harassed and disturbed by the ingenuity of a powerful enemy, in a war avowedly upon English commerce, the interests of the landowners had, owing to the high prices of provisions, been progressively improving." Government interfered, however, with the Corn Laws, the importation of wheat, until it should reach 80s. per quarter, being prohibited. Great was the indignation expressed by petitions from Bolton and other manufacturing centres. Accompanying and following these petitions were memorials for redistribution and changes of Parliamentary divisions; the after-effects of the deadly struggle upon the Continent coming all too quickly and with frightful consequences on communities and individuals.

Bolton operatives lent willing ears to the addresses of Hunt and his fellows. Many of them attended the Peterloo meeting, 16th August, 1819, and returned deeply impressed—confirmed in their conceptions of cause and effect—and spread Radical principles in the town as they had never previously been disseminated. Dr. Robert Taylor was a prominent figure in the several agitations. He was a man who had a rooted sympathy for the working classes, and was given to expressing himself fearlessly. Col. Fletcher in particular came in more than once for his attentions. The state of trade improved at length, but Reform principles had been firmly rooted in the minds of Boltonians, and when in the years 1824-25 there was continued unrest, owing to bad trade, Bolton joined more loudly than ever in the cry for reform in representation and national government.

In the year 1826 came the dissolution of Parliament. The Reformers of Bolton agitated for a change in the representation of the town with increased earnestness. Mr. John Blackburne had been one of the representatives of Lancashire from the year 1784, and he was bent on not seeking re-election with Lord Stanley. The Tories were anxious to secure the services of Mr. William Hulton, of Hulton Park, and as early as 1820, a

requisition, very numerously signed, was presented to him, soliciting him to allow himself to be put in nomination for the vacancy. Mr. Hulton gave his consent to the prayer of the signatories, but withdrew it. Lord Stanley and Mr. John Blackburne were re-elected. Time went on, and political feeling grew apace, Tories and Reformers evincing ardour and determination for the furtherance of tenets held by them. On 5th October, 1828, Mr. (afterwards Sir) Robert Peel and Mrs. Peel arrived at Hulton Park as the guests of Mr. William Hulton, where they were greeted by the host and hostess and a select company. On the following day the great statesman planted an oak tree near to the Hall as a memento of his visit, and came on to Bolton. Here he had a most enthusiastic reception. He was the principal guest at a breakfast provided at the Commercial Hotel by his admirers.

In January, 1830, William Cobbett delivered a Lecture in the Bolton Theatre on "The causes of the Prevailing Distress." He was warmly welcomed by the Reformers. In April the Reformers held another meeting. They had Mr. John Livesey, boroughreeve of Little Bolton, as Chairman. They condemned the House of Commons for not acting as they considered they might have done in relieving distress, and a resolution was adopted calling for a radical reform in the constitution of the Lower Chamber. Lord Stanley and Mr. Wilson-Patten were returned for Lancashire unopposed at the General Election. "Orator" Hunt was defeated at Preston. A large body of Bolton Reformers proceeded as far as the boundary of Sharples to greet him on his return to Manchester and conducted him to the Swan Inn where, from the balcony, he spoke to a vast concourse of hearers. On his invitation a resolution was passed thanking the people of Paris for dethroning Charles X. In the afternoon Mr. Hunt had dinner at the Little Bolton Town Hall with 200 Radicals of the town. In the evening the Theatre was the scene of a large gathering, Mr. Hunt attending to witness the play, an advertisement having been published that the proceeds would be devoted to alleviating the distress among the children of those whose lives were lost in the latest of French Revolutions. When, in December, Mr. Hunt defeated the Hon. E. G. Stanley, who sought re-election at Preston on appointment

to the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Radicals of Bolton were overwhelmed with delight. They feasted the successful candidate on the 29th, thousands of people cheering him as he passed to the Swan Hotel. The Bolton Political Union, whose members were Reformers, had been established in the preceding October under the most favourable auspices.

Local Radicals remained active, and immediately an announcement was made 1st February, 1831, that the Government were prepared to introduce a measure of Reform, the public authorities of the town were petitioned to summon a meeting for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of Parliamentary Reform. Resolutions, asking for a Measure of Reform, were adopted at the desired meeting, the speakers including Tories and Reformers. A motion was passed with enthusiasm to the effect that as Great and Little Bolton had a population of 60,000, direct representation should be accorded to the town. A motion was passed, also after some opposition, in favour of the Ballot. Bolton was profoundly agitated by the Parliamentary proceedings on the Reform Bill, and local Reformers cheered Henry Hunt more wildly than ever when he returned via Bolton to Manchester and London, on the occasion of his second election for Preston. The petitions that ensued were signed by over 10,000 people of every shade of politics. As is well known, the threat of the King to create a number of Peers sufficient to give the Government a majority in the Upper Chamber for the passing of the Reform Bill deterred the opponents, and finally Lord John Russell's measure received the Royal Assent.

Meanwhile, a desire that the Returning Officers in Bolton should be the boroughreeves, and not the constables, had been acceded to. A proposal was made in the Commons by Lord Milton that Bolton and other towns of equal size and importance be accorded two members—a motion that was defeated by a substantial majority. The question of two members for Bolton was introduced shortly afterwards. Colonel Torrens and other members supported. Bolton was eulogised as a large manufacturing town, second only in importance to Manchester, as being the third town in Lancashire in point of size and population—a town distinguished for enterprise and intelli-

gence. But the House was still obdurate, and Bolton had to be content, for a time, with having the option of electing one member alone. In the heat of the political conflict of the Summer of 1832 Colonel Torrens presented himself before a "highly respectable assembly of merchants and manufacturers" of Bolton, as a candidate for the suffrages of the borough. Ultimately the Colonel was adopted by a large section of the community as a candidate holding "moderate Radical" views. The Extremists favoured Mr. John A. Yates, of Liverpool. Mr. William Bolling, cotton spinner, came forward as the champion of the Tories. He was greeted with open arms, Bolton being in a state of political ferment for many weeks. There was "heckling" without end, abuse was poured out, votes of confidence were taken in assembly rooms, public houses, and in the open air. There were canvassing, public dinners, illuminations, and fireworks, and a fourth Richmond appearing in the field in the person of Mr. William Eagle, a Radical, confusion was extraordinary indeed.

Bolton had then been given the right of returning two members. For the two seats the four candidates contended. Nomination day was the 11th December (1832), and the Market Place was thronged by a dense mass of individuals. The hustings were then, and at each succeeding General Election, until the adoption of the Ballot Act, upon the west side of the Market Place, and on a site now covered by the flags in front of the Town Hall steps. Mr. John Barrow, boroughreeve for Great Bolton, declared the show of hands to be in favour of Messrs. Yates and Eagle. A poll was thereupon demanded. The polling was fixed for 12th and 13th December, the booths being at the Sessions Room (Queen Anne), Chancery Lane; Three Arrows Inn, Old Hall Street; Three Crowns, Deansgate; Little Bolton Town Hall, and Independent Methodist Schoolroom, Folds Road. Special constables were sworn in. Not without need. There were alarming disturbances, owing to the vagaries of mobs armed with sticks. Hussars were summoned from Manchester, and in the afternoon of the first day they entered the town. The Riot Act was read, but the unruly were evidently cowed, as no further violent uproar was pursued. On the second day Col. Torrens was struck by a missile. He was

confined to his hotel for a few days. "In consequence of the break caused by the riot on Wednesday, the poll was opened again on Friday, and was finally closed about one o'clock, the voting power of all parties being evidently exhausted."*

The poll was declared thus: Lieut. Col. Torrens (L) 627 votes; W. Bolling (C) 502; John A. Yates (L) 484; W. Eagle (R) 106. Col. Torrens and Mr. William Bolling were declared elected. The voters numbered 1,340 and 1,079 votes were recorded.

The Anti-Corn Law League had sprung into a healthy existence in 1838. Bolton being the place in which Thomas Thomasson, Henry and Edmund Ashworth, and A. J. Paulton resided, it naturally followed that they would gather about them a following of no mean proportions. Meetings to agitate for the repeal of the Corn Laws were held. They were attended by those opposed to the doctrine, and many were the wordy contests in which the respective parties engaged. The "Sacred Month" was decided upon at the "National Chartist Convention" in London, and was to be devoted to agitation everywhere and a cessation from labour. Ultimately, the twenty-eight days dwindled to three in the month of August. Prior to this, the Chartists resolved to demonstrate in the Parish Churches to prove that the Church belonged the people. On the 26th July (1839), a meeting was held in Turton Street, Bolton, to make preliminary arrangements. On Sunday, the 28th, a procession was formed in the Market Place. The march commenced to the Parish Church, the route by Deansgate and Churchgate being lined with spectators. The sacred edifice was crowded by a motley and unruly crowd of Chartists and low mobsmen. Unseemly language was used, there was shouting; in brief, shocking irreverence. The ordinary congregation could not obtain admission, and the boroughreeve and constables had no control over the gathering for some time. Vicar Slade was at Chester, discharging his functions of Canon. The Rev. J. Robins, the curate, conducted the service, and, when order was restored, preached the sermon. There was a procession on the following Sunday, but the attendance was not so large, and, gradually, the Chartists fell off church-going, at any rate in a body.

* Political and Parliamentary History of Bolton, Vol. I., page 154.

Upwards of 1500 special constables were sworn in at Bolton in preparation for the gatherings to be held during the "Sacred" holiday. When, at 5 o'clock in the morning of the 12th August, there was a muster of Chartists, they found the authorities ready for them. So at a later hour in the morning, and again in the afternoon. Work was at a standstill; there was marching to and fro, and the town at large became once more very agitated. The leaders appeared to be three individuals named Gillespie, Lloyd, and Warden. As rioting was feared if the men were left to their own sweet will, warrants were issued for their arrest. The Chartists dispersed, however, for the day. On the following morning there was a re-assembly at 5 o'clock. Lloyd and Warden were taken into custody and lodged in the police station, Bowker's Row. The arrest of the two leaders greatly exasperated the Chartists. An attempt at rescue was mooted, and to Bowker's Row marched the angry throng. Stones were thrown, windows were smashed, and, an entry having been forced, Lloyd and Warden were set at liberty. For a brief interval, however. They were apprehended again. The Mayor, Mr. C. J. Darbishire, read the Riot Act, and a squadron of the 6th Carabineers, from Manchester, who had been held in readiness from the previous day, cleared, with the 96th Foot, quartered in the town, the streets quickly enough. The Chartists had not returned to their homes, as it was expected they would. Scarcely had the magisterial examination of Lloyd and Warden been begun when a messenger arrived in hot haste from Bolton Moor, to state that a large meeting was being held there, and that, judging from the language indulged in and the conduct of those present, another riot would occur. The Mayor left the bench at once. Bestriding the Town Clerk's horse, he dashed off to Bolton Moor, and into the thick of the meeting, and prevailed upon those present to quietly separate. His Worship then rode back to Bowker's Row, and presided at the committal of Lloyd and Warden to the Liverpool Assizes. Here they were required to enter into recognizances to keep the peace. The soldiers who guarded the vehicle in which the men were removed to Liverpool were stoned, and a number of them injured. Two Bolton solicitors, Mr. Holden and Mr. Kay, were attacked by the mob, also, and the latter then directed their

attention once more to the Police Office, and to the Lever's Arms adjoining.

In the afternoon, there were renewed manifestations of disorder. In Great Bolton and Little Bolton centres of industry were visited. The workers were called upon to come out, but there was no serious molestation, the timely interference of the military acting as a corrective. As evening drew on, however, the public thoroughfares were trodden by thousands of the populace, and a widespread fear being entertained of further disturbances, shops were closed, the Parish Church bell was tolled, and placards giving warning of the penalties of rioting were posted. A communication had been sent off to Manchester asking for the presence of the 8th Hussars. The special constables assembled at the Town Hall, knowing that the ringing of the church bell was a signal for them. After the reading of the Riot Act for the second time that day, an endeavour was made to clear the streets. The mob near the Little Bolton Town Hall turned upon some fifty special constables when one of their number was effecting an arrest, and refuge had to be sought in the municipal building, where the doors were barricaded. Failing to obtain admission the mob hurled everything they could take up at the windows, smashed all of them and the framework likewise. The Mayor was urged to give the order for the military to charge the rioters, but afraid that there would be bloodshed, and believing the disorders would not spread, he refrained from doing so. The military did actually come upon the scene. The mob fled, and several persons were arrested in their flight, while a seizure of pikes was made. Many of the individuals thus apprehended were sent for trial. They were, on being found guilty, either sentenced to terms of imprisonment direct, or called upon to give surety for their good behaviour. The third "Sacred Day" was, it should be observed, free from any disorders. Direct reference was made to the rioting at Bolton in Parliament by Lord Lyndhurst, the Duke of Wellington, and others.

Avoiding all details, which, generally speaking, have been of the ordinary character in Bolton, let us state that the following are the results of the Parliamentary Elections.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.*

12th and 13th Dec., 1832—
- Robert Torrens (I)..... 627
- William Bolling (C) 492
- John Ashton Yates (L) 482
- William Eagle (R)..... 107

7th and 8th Jan., 1835—
- William Bolling (C) 633
- Peter Ainsworth (L) 590
- Robert Torrens (I)..... 343

26th July, 1837—
- Peter Ainsworth (L) 615
- William Bolling (C) 607
- Andrew Knowles (L)..... 538

4th July, 1841—
- Peter Ainsworth (L) 669
- Dr. Bowring (L)..... 614
- Peter Rothwell (C)..... 536
- William Bolling (C) 441

29th July, 1847—
- William Bolling (C) 714
- Dr. Bowring (L)..... 652
- John Brooks (L)..... 645

12th Sept., 1848—
- Stephen Blair (C) unopposed.
- (On death of Mr. W. Bolling.)

8th Feb., 1849—
- Sir Joshua Walmsley (L) 621
- Thomas R. Bridson (C)..... 568
- (On Dr. Bowring's appointment as Consul at Canton.)

8th July, 1852—
- Thomas Barnes (L) 745
- Joseph Crook (L) 727
- Stephen Blair (C) 717
- Peter Ainsworth (L) 346

28th March, 1857—
- William Gray (C) 930
- Joseph Crook (L) 895
- Thomas Barnes (L) 832

29th April, 1859—
- William Gray (C) } Unopposed.
- Joseph Crook (L) }

11th Feb., 1861—
- Thomas Barnes (L) Unopposed.
- (On resignation of Mr. Joseph Crook.)

12th July, 1865—
- William Gray (C) 1022
- Thomas Barnes (L) 979
- Samuel Pope (L) 864
- William Gibb (C) 727

17th Nov., 1868—
- John Hick (C) 6062
- William Gray (C)..... 5804
- Thomas Barnes (L) 5451
- Samuel Pope (L) 5436
- (Election under Reform Act of 1867.)

4th Feb., 1874—
- John Hick (C)..... 5987
- John K. Cross (L) 5782
- William Gray (C) 5650
- James Knowles (L)..... 5440

31st March, 1880—
- John K. Cross (L) 6965
- John P. Thomasson (L)..... 6673
- Thomas L. Rushton (C) 6539
- Col. the Hon. F. C. Bridgeman (C) 6415

25th Nov., 1885—
- H. Shepherd-Cross (C)..... 7933
- Col. Bridgeman (C) 7655
- John K. Cross (L)..... 6724
- John P. Thomasson (L)..... 6228
- Henry M. Richardson (Ind. C.) . 1191

2nd July, 1886—
- H. Shepherd-Cross (C) 7780
- Col. Bridgeman (C) 7668
- Jos. C. Haslam (G L)..... 6452
- R. C. Richards (G L) 6314

Roundly speaking, the parliamentary and municipal limits of the borough have been, and are, co-extensive, save that a part of the Astley Bridge area is included for parliamentary voting purposes.

A futile attempt was made in May, 1874, to remove Mr. Cross, on petition, on the grounds of bribery and treating, before Mr. Justice Mellor. The hearing lasted three days in the Bolton Town Hall. Towards the close of 1867 Bolton, in common with other large centres, was greatly agitated by reports on Fenianism. So alarmed were the authorities in Bolton, that the police were instructed as to closer vigilance of public build-

* Unless otherwise specified, the returns relate to General Elections. The first two names mentioned in each case were the successful candidates.

ings and private property. Over a thousand special constables were sworn in; local Volunteers were armed and placed on guard at headquarters. The year 1868 dawned, and fears were not appeased; rather were they intensified, rumours spreading of Fenian attacks that never came, at any rate in Bolton. Indignation and alarm had not subsided when, in the month of July, William Murphy, an Anti-Popery lecturer, came to Bolton. The passions of hundreds of those against whose religion he railed were inflamed; the town became excited, and matters were fast tending to a serious conflict in the streets when Murphy was apprehended, on the 14th. On the 17th he was called upon by the Borough Justices to enter into recognizances for his good behaviour for twelve months. Political feeling ran high immediately prior to the Municipal Elections of 1868, and there was rioting in West Ward. A number of men were brought before the Justices on charges of rioting on the 1st November, but were discharged. There was rioting in Newtown on the 17th of the same month, on the occasion of the Parliamentary Election, and the Riot Act was read.

The Co-operative Hall, in Bridge Street, was, on the 25th November, 1871, the scene of considerable uproar. Republicanism was then rearing its head afresh. A large crowd gathered outside the hall, where a Mr. George Odger, of London, was to lecture, and assumed a very threatening attitude. They had not dispersed when the meeting inside was brought to a close amid uproar. On coming into the street those who had been in the hall were met by derisive shouts. Flour and eggs were showered upon many of them without mercy. A look-out was kept for the lecturer, but he succeeded in eluding his enemies and left Bolton unmolested.

Seventeen individuals, alleged to have been engaged in riot and attack outside the Temperance Hall, when Sir Charles Dilke lectured there, 30th November, 1871, were brought before the Justices and were variously charged. The trial lasted nine days, a mass of evidence being called. The allegations against three of the defendants were withdrawn, eight of the persons summoned were discharged, and six were committed for trial to the Manchester Assizes. On the 18th and 19th March, 1872, the indictments were taken. The jury were unable to agree upon a verdict. The accused were permitted out on bail to take their

trial at the next assizes. When the assizes came round no evidence was offered by the Prosecution, and defendants were discharged. In the meantime, much had been said as to the Magistrates who had met on the night of the riot, and who had delayed giving an order for the dispersal, by force if need be, of the disorderly mob; a petition, signed by upwards of 6,000 persons, was presented to Government for an inquiry into the riot. The prayer of the petitioners was granted, and on the 2nd May an inquiry was opened by Mr. C. S. Whitmore, Q.C., and Mr. J. B. Maule, Q.C., who presented their report to the Home Secretary (Mr. H. A. Bruce) in due course.

On the 1st June the decision the Home Secretary had come to in the matter was made known. He was of opinion that there had been a most unreasonable delay in action on the part of the Magistrates; still, that they acted according to the best of their honest judgment, and that charges against any individual Magistrate were without substantial foundation.

CHAPTER XLVI.

LATER MOVEMENTS.

The Infirmary—Hospital Saturday—Chadwick Orphanage—The Statue to Dr. Chadwick—The School Board—County Court —Co-operation—The Press.

AN Institution not already touched upon is the new and handsome Infirmary and Dispensary, Chorley Street. Although the old Infirmary block in Nelson Square was enlarged in 1864, it was found in the course of a few years to be too limited for the growing needs of the town and district, and the admission was made that nothing short of an entirely new building would suffice. Two offers of £5,000 each in 1876—one from the late Dr. Chadwick, and the other from Messrs. John Musgrave and Sons—brought matters to a climax. A site off Chorley New Road and Chorley Street was fixed upon, and the land, 23,300 yards in area, was purchased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and Lord Bradford. For the plans submitted by Mr. R. K. Freeman, of Bolton, a premium was awarded by the Committee, and from these designs the premises have been raised, Messrs. J. H. and G. Marsden being the builders. The Corner Stone of the Children's block was laid by Dr. Ferguson, J.P., 30th August, 1879; on 1st May, 1880, Mr. Ald. Joseph Musgrave, J.P., presided at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the main block. In May of the following year, Hospital Saturday was established. In April, 1883,

the amount of subscriptions and donations from all sources towards the buildings was £32,083 6s. 8d. (in support of which Mr. J. P. Thomasson gave £2,500), and the payments £31,215 11s. 1d. The total cost of erection and furnishing was about £40,000—a sum practically wiped off. On the 5th September, 1881, an Exhibition of Works of Art was inaugurated upon the premises by Lord Bradford, the President, and the formal Opening of the Institution took place 21st July, 1883, Mr. Joseph Musgrave officiating.

Boltonians were agreeably surprised on the 2nd January, 1868, by the announcement that Dr. Samuel T. Chadwick and Mrs. Chadwick had expressed their intention of giving £17,000, to be invested in trustees for the erection of an Orphanage and Model Dwellings. It was afterwards explained that £6000 would go towards the erection of the institution, built eventually upon land off Bradford Street. Let it be stated that such was the general esteem in which Dr. and Mrs. Chadwick were held that when they went to reside at Southport in 1863, substantial tokens, subscribed to by 7,340 persons, were presented to them. The statue in the Town Hall Square was raised to Dr. Chadwick from subscriptions given by 20,000 persons, and was inaugurated 1st August, 1873, Mr. James Barlow, J.P., the mayor, being the chief executant. The Chadwick Orphanage was opened on the 7th December of the following year. In January, 1869, Dr. Chadwick transferred a further sum of £5,000 for the benefit of the institutions, and other amounts have since accrued. Other charitable establishments have since been opened in Bolton and the neighbourhood, and are greatly appreciated, notably the Blair Hospital at Turton and the Eden Orphanage, Astley Bridge.

The oldest of Educational establishments in the town have been referred to. Mr. W. E. Forster's Elementary Education Act altered the condition of things very considerably, lessening the number of private schools, and giving new life to Church and Nonconformist institutions. The first School Board in Bolton was formed December, 1870, the Denominationalists having a majority. Mr. T. L. Rushton was first Chairman. His successors in the chair have been, Rev. Canon Powell (Churchman), Mr. J. R. Barlow, J.P. (Wesleyan Methodist), and Mr. John Leach (Churchman). Save for a period of three years, 1879-82,

the Denominationalists have had the majority on the Board. In these three years about twenty public elementary schools were taken over by the Board. The commodious Board School in the Haulgh is the gift of Mr. J. P. Thomasson—the donor of the Gymnasium in Folds Road, and the Mere Hall estate.

The latest inauguration of an Educational establishment in Bolton was on Saturday, the 19th March (1892), in the Technical School, Mawdsley Street, the Mechanics' Institute premises having been transformed for the purposes of technical instruction. To Ald. Dobson, J.P. (who opened the School), Mr. M. Fielding, and a few other gentlemen, the success of the movement is entirely due. The bulk of the machinery was generously given by Messrs. Dobson and Barlow.

On 2nd July, 1869, County Court business was first transacted in the new buildings erected upon the site of the Concert Hall, opened 15th February, 1859, after the place had been closed as a theatre. The Court of Requests was established at the old Police Offices in Bowker's Row; and when in 1846 the County Court Act was passed, and Bolton had been made a separate district, hearings took place in the Little Bolton Town Hall from 1847 until the removal of ordinary business to Mawdsley Street. The late Mr. William Adam Hulton was the first County Court Judge, as he was the Judge in the Court of Requests. Mr. Thomas Holden was associated with the County Court as Registrar from 1846 to his death, 18th December, 1887. Messrs. C. H. and A. T. Holden are joint Registrars.

Socially, there is good reason for congratulation because of the progress made, particularly during the last fifty years. Societies for mutual improvement have been formed; owing to the endeavours of the earnest advocates of Temperance since the first society was formed in 1831 much has been accomplished in this direction. The most marked success has been achieved by Co-operators. Starting in 1860, the Society has grown continually. The membership is 17,000, the share capital of the Society is £320,000, and the sales are confidently expected to be, during the year, half a million sterling. The Reading Room, in Bark Street, is the best in the town, and the Library, admirably conducted, contains 8500 volumes, carefully selected. It may fairly be said that the Press of the town had done something, likewise, towards the elevation of the masses. Nowhere are

newspapers more jealously conducted. Bolton was one of the first to possess a halfpenny evening newspaper, thanks to the spirit of that enterprising proprietor and journalist, the late Mr. W. F. Tillotson, J.P.*

For a chronological order of local events, some of which are not touched upon in preceding pages, the reader is referred to Mr. James Clegg's *Annals of Bolton*, 1888.

Much more might be written anent Bolton and of what has transpired within its area. One is conscious, however, that the space originally allowed for disposal is exceeded, and that even if it were not so sufficient has been written for the compass of a single volume. Doubtless matters have been omitted that might well find a place in such a Work; possibly there are records in these chapters that were better left out. To say there are no blemishes herein would be rashness. He who could produce a History of this character, nay of any kind, without a fault, would be more than human. Let it be said that the principals to the Work have done their best; that time, patience, and care have been freely drawn upon in the endeavour to make this a genuine HISTORY OF BOLTON.

* For a full list of Bolton newspapers and authors see *Bolton Bibliography and Jottings of Book-lore; with Notes on Local Authors and Printers*," by the late Jas. C. Scholes. 1886.

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